



BY QUEEN BEE



Get fresh at the weekend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ART OF FRESH

Canadian hip-hop stars Duane "DO" Gibson and Byram "Slakah" Joseph, aka Art of Fresh, touch down in Taiwan for a string of gigs beginning tonight. Some call the duo's music hip-hop, others call it hip-house. Semantics aside, let's just say it's quality music that nicely combines the essence of both new and old-school hip-hop, is fresh and very addictive. The Vinyl Word spoke with the pair by phone last week.

Vinyl Word: Please introduce yourselves.

Defy the Odds: I go by the name DO aka Defy the Odds and I'm a Guinness World Record-setting rapper from Toronto, Canada ...

Slakah: Hello, my name is Slakah the Beatchild, you can call me Beatchild. And together we have been making the Buttafat Boombap [tour] with my man for the last few years ...

VW: What's it like to see Art of Fresh in action?

DO: You better have some comfortable shoes that you can dance in 'cause we make sure you hit the dance floor. We bring a lot of energy to the show to make sure that everyone has a good time.

Beatchild: Exactly, the majority of our music is break beat and house influenced, so it's upbeat and fun.

VW: Have you been to Asia before?
DO: This is our first time to Asia and [we're] loving it so far. We're in Tokyo right now. Just rocked a crazy show a couple of nights ago. What better way to see the world then touring your music?

VW: What's your favorite song to play?

Beatchild: We really enjoy doing our big single *Out This World* because it's one of our songs that has reached the world and people love singing along to it.

VW: You've signed to Universal, a major record label. Did that change your life?

DO: Being signed has been great because it brings your music to a whole new audience. But we've always done it independent, so it's good having that experience. You can't wait on anyone to do it for you.

VW: Your hit singles *Get Free* and *Out This World* are great hip-house tunes. Have you always been into house music?

Beatchild: As the producer of the group, I am such a huge fan of upbeat music but with jazz influences. So whether it is house, break beat or garage, I am a fan. But my roots are hip-hop and soul music. So we make a conscious effort to blend true school lyrics on top of soulful grooves and upbeat breaks.

VW: DO, you've set the Guinness World Record for freestyle rapping for eight hours and 45 minutes. How did you do it? Didn't you get hungry and thirsty?

DO: Hungry and thirsty. But for real, after the first 20 minutes I blacked out ... I got into the zone and was only focused on rhyming. Got to love that Red Bull though, that helped out a lot ...

VW: A final word?

Art of Fresh: If you want some of that fresh flava you've never experienced before, come out to our show. Dates and info are on our MySpace page www.myspace.com/artoffresh. We also have an album out that you can purchase online through iTunes or at cdbaby.com.

Art of Fresh

■ Tomorrow at 10pm, Roxy Roots, 90, Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松

仁路90號). With Dr Renculous Lipz. Admission is free
■ Sunday at 7pm, DC Stage, 138-1 Ciouchang Rd, Niasong Township, Kaohsiung County (高雄縣鳥松鄉球場路138-1號). Admission is NT\$250
■ Dec. 18 at 10pm, Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號B1). Admission is NT\$300
■ Dec. 19 at 10pm, Brickyard, 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中山二路507號). Admission is NT\$350

In last week's Vinyl Word, Tom Leeming reported on Dec. 5's Colour Wolf party at 89k in Taichung, saying that the venue's sound system was not up to electro. Now we know why: "Someone jumped off of where the DJs were and right on the power box, momentarily shutting off power to the mixer. When the power flashed back on, the tunes were at full volume," wrote Jimmy Nickles in an e-mail message. "This sudden blast of full power blew the main output stage on the mixer shutting off more than half of the wattage. All that were left were the house speakers." To paraphrase our illustrious ex-vic battle-ax, **Annette Lu** (呂秀蓮), shame on that person.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

The National Theater and Concert Hall New Idea Series this year focuses on the renowned Ming Dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu (湯顯祖). Three theater companies will present contemporary renditions of his works. Cie MaxMind (拾念劇集) kicks off the series with **Dreams of Manuscript (玉茗堂私夢)**, which blends modern theatrical elements with traditional *kun* opera (昆劇). The production is based on four of Tang's *kun* opera manuscripts known as *The Four Dreams of Yuming Hall* (玉茗堂四夢).
■ National Experimental Theater, Taipei City
■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Short One Player (三缺一劇團) presents **The Third Wish (第三個願望)**, a play about the relationship between a mother and her children that is filled with stress, frustration and love.
■ Guling Street Avant-Garde Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號)
■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Local flamenco dancers, guitar player and singers hit the floor with dances and music from southern Spain.
■ Saffron Flamenco Studio (番紅花弗朗明哥表演廳), 2, Ln 142, Nanya 5 Rd Sec 2, Taipei County (台北縣南雅南路二段142巷2號). Tel: (02) 8967-5937. On the Net: tw.myblog.yahoo.com/gina-saffron
■ Tomorrow at 8pm
■ Tickets are NT\$350 and include a drink

For its children-friendly **Beauty and the Beast (美女與野獸)**, Tainaner Ensemble (台南人劇團) uses acrobatics, magic tricks, music and dance to reinterpret the classic fairy tale.
■ Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (台南市立文化中心), 332, Jhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號)
■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
■ Tickets are NT\$500 and NT\$700, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **WoMan (這一夜 - 守歲)** by Taiwan Drama Performance (台灣戲劇表演家), the skeletons in one family's closet come out at a Lunar New Year gathering.
■ Sun Yat-sen Hall of the National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學逸仙館), 70 Lianhai Rd, Kaohsiung

City (高雄市蓮海路70號)
■ Sunday at 7:30pm.
■ Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$1,200, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Classical music

Ling-yi Ou Yang and the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra (歐陽怡宜與長榮交響樂團) presents cellist Ling-yi Ou Yang (歐陽怡宜) performing with the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra (長榮交響樂團) under the baton of Gernot Schmalfuss. The centerpiece of the program is Dvorak's *Cello Concerto in B Minor, Op. 104*. It will also include Wagner's *Overture to "Tannhauser"* and Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, Op. 100*. [See story to the right.]
■ Wednesday at 7:30pm
■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

A Flute's Adventure — Chen Yi-ting Flute Recital (長笛演奏會: 陳怡婷2009長笛獨奏會) features flautist Chen Yi-ting performing a mixed program that includes Alfred Casella's *Barcarola et Scherzo for Flute and Piano*, Edgard Varese's *Density 21.5 for Solo Flute*, Mike Mower's *Sonata Latino* and Christopher Caliendo's *Sonata for Flute and Piano No. 3*. She will be accompanied on piano by Chen Kuan-yu (陳冠宇).
■ Wednesday at 7:30pm
■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$800, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Nothing but Swing — Taipei Big Band (除了搖擺, 別無其他 — 台北爵士大樂團) is a concert organized by the Arts Center of the National Chiao Tung University (國立交通大學), which brings together classical and modern jazz talent from around the country to celebrate big band style music. The program ranges from arrangements of works by Charles Mingus and Thelonious Monk, to Chick Corea and Sammy Nestico.
■ Thursday at 7:30pm
■ Chungcheng Hall of the National Chiao Tung University (交通大學中正堂), 1001 Dasyue Rd, Hsinchu City (新竹市大學路1001號)
■ Tickets are NT\$150 to NT\$400, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Starry, Starry Night (星光燦爛) sees the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團) performing under the baton of guest conductor Andras Ligeti, with Robert Chen (陳慕融) on violin and Anny Hwang (黃安妮) on piano. The

program includes Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major*, Ravel's *Tzigane*, Saint-Saens' *Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso* and Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 in D Major "Titan."*
■ Sunday at 2:30pm
■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Event

The Canadian Society in Taiwan is hosting its second Pancake and Skate party on Sunday beginning at 4pm. The event features pancakes made with real Canadian maple syrup as well as Tim Horton's coffee — a Canadian favorite. Admission is NT\$80. Skates can be hired at the venue for NT\$250. Be sure to mention that you are with the Canadian Society. There will also be a hockey clinic where participants can learn to shoot a puck. Prizes are available for those who score a goal. Dress warm as the rink is colder than outside.
■ Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋), 2 Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京東路四段2號)
■ Sunday from 4pm to 6pm

Contemporary

Legacy Taipei, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), is Taipei's newest mid-sized rock venue hosting top local bands and international acts. Tonight is the Back to Spin party, now in its third edition [see story on Page 13]. Tomorrow indie-pop favorites **Tizzy Bac** take the stage. Wednesday night features reggae-rock group **Matzka and Di Hot** and alt-rockers **Monkey Pilot** (猴子飛行員).
■ 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
■ Shows start at 10pm tonight, 8pm tomorrow and Wednesday
■ Entrance tonight is NT\$800 (NT\$500 in advance, limited to 500 persons), NT\$600 tomorrow (NT\$500 in advance) and NT\$400 on Wednesday. Tickets for tomorrow's and Wednesday's shows are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Tonight at **The Wall (這牆) Unfamiliar Friends Party (不熟的朋友)** celebrates the release of its new EP, *We Are So Wise*. Tomorrow night revered indie pop band **1976** performs in support of its latest album *Life or Live (不合時宜)*. On Sunday it's folk rock group **Windmill (風輪功)**, post-rock/emo band **Orangegrass (橙草)** and atmospheric indie rock group **Bearbabs (熊寶貝)**.
■ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: www.thewall.com.tw
■ Music shows start at 8pm
■ Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow and NT\$300 on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Experimental solo performer **Wang Yu-Chun (王榆鈞)** takes to the stage tonight at **Witch House (女巫店)**. Tomorrow night it's blues and jazz combo **Afternoon Tree (午後之樹)**. **Green! Eyes (綠色眼睛)**, which describes its music as having a "flavor of guitar pop and a bit of country," appears on Thursday.
■ 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). Tel: (02) 2362-5494. On the Net: www.witchhouse.org
■ Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board

HIGHLIGHT

BY DAVID CHEN

Welcome to the jungle, finally. **Guns N' Roses** performs in Taiwan tonight, for the first time ever, at **Banciao Stadium (台北縣立板橋體育館)**. The band's newest album, *Chinese Democracy* (2008), is its first release in over 15 years. Lead singer Axl Rose is the only original band member left in the group from 1987, the year that the band's classic debut *Appetite for Destruction* came out. The group's show tonight launches a brief Asian tour that includes stops in Japan and South Korea. Unsurprisingly the band won't be heading to China, where *Chinese Democracy* is supposedly banned and major foreign artists' set lists often have to be approved in advance. On the album's title track, Rose sings, "Blame it on the Falun Gong. They've seen the end and you can't hold on now."
► Guns N' Roses live in concert at



Guns N' Roses plays at Banciao Stadium tonight. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL RECORDS TAIWAN

Banciao Stadium (台北縣立板橋體育館), 278 Hansheng E Rd, Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市漢生東路278號); closest MRT station is Banciao Station, Exit 2 (板橋捷運站2號出口)
► Tonight at 7:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$1,500 to NT\$5,000, available through Rose Records outlets (玫瑰大眾唱片). For locations and more information visit www.g-music.ticket.com.tw
► On the Net: www.g-music.com.tw/event/2009/GMUSICBigBanner.661/index.html

games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays
■ Entry for music shows is NT\$300

Rachel Liang (梁文君), who came to prominence on the pop idol reality TV show *One Million Star* (超級星光大道), performs tonight at **Riverside Cafe (河岸咖啡屋)**. Tomorrow the venue hosts Hot Music, a special concert featuring well-known Haka musicians such as Golden Melody Award winning folk rocker **Hsieh Yu-wei (謝宇威)** and pop performer **Julia Peng (彭佳慧)**. On Sunday expat hard rock band **Jindown (筋斗雲)** shares the bill with **No Key Band**. On Monday it's the venue's weekly open jam.
■ B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電大樓). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
■ Shows start at 9pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site
■ Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, free tomorrow but limited to online registration (for details see hotmusic.pixnet.net), NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Tonight **Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館)** hosts **Julie Chu (朱俐靜)**, a singer featured on the TV reality show *Super Idol* (超級偶像), as part of an ongoing concert series that concludes tonight. Tomorrow pop singer **Genie Chuo (卓文萱)** takes to the stage. On Sunday it's aspiring Mando-pop and R'n'B group **Magic Power (魔幻力量)**, which is launching its debut album. Polished acoustic pop band **Staycool (小房間以外)**, also celebrates the release of its debut CD on Thursday.
■ 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
■ Shows start at 8pm tonight, 7pm tomorrow, and 8:30pm Sunday and Thursday
■ Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$600 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight **Underworld (地下社會)** hosts one-man electro-rock band **Sonic Deadhorse** and noise band **Sunset Rollercoaster (落日飛車)**. Tomorrow it's nu metal band **RJ45 (石頭果醬)** and indie-rockers **Macbeth (馬克白)**. Later on, party crew **Back 2 the Future (B2TF, 回到未來)** holds Special Gay Night Party 2, featuring electro/dance DJ **Monster Attack**. On Wednesday it's up-and-coming bands

Cheez and The Looking Glass.
■ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: www.upsaid.com/underworld
■ Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
■ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow, which includes one drink. Tomorrow's late-night party is NT\$100. NT\$100 on Wednesday

Sappho de Base is closed tonight for a private event. Appearing tomorrow is Canadian jazz guitarist **Roy Patterson**, a past winner of the Prix de Jazz at the Montreal Jazz Festival. On Tuesday **East of Harlem**, an expat/Taiwanese quintet, takes to the stage and on Wednesday, it's **Shantal**, which plays music from India, Central Asia, the Middle East and Spain. On Thursday it's the **Brian, Grace and Yohei Jazz Trio**.
■ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: www.sappho102.biz
■ Music shows begin at 10pm. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
■ Entrance is NT\$150 tomorrow, NT\$100 on Tuesday, free on other nights.

Expat pop-folk act **Reider** plays tonight at Taichung's **89k**. Tomorrow the venue hosts a party held by Perpetual Motion.
■ 21 Daguang Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號)
■ Shows start at 10pm
■ Entrance is NT\$300

The Mercury (水星酒館), a club that opened a few months ago in Kaohsiung, features local indie bands. Appearing tomorrow is emo-folk singer **Enno (鄭宜農)**.
■ 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying District, Kaohsiung (高雄市左營區立文路46號). Tel: (07) 550-8617. On the Net: mercurybar.blogspot.com
■ Shows start at 9:30pm
■ Entrance is NT\$100

Jazz duo pianist **Chang Kai-ya (張凱雅)** and violinist **Hsieh Chi-pin (謝啟彬)** perform outdoors on Sunday at the Left Bank Jazz Party (2009左岸藝術節爵士派對), an outdoor event held every weekend at the **Shihsanhang Museum of Archaeology (十三行博物館)**. The pair will perform new songs from Chang's new release, *Jazz Promenade (記憶漫遊)*.
■ 200 Museum Rd, Bali Township, Taipei County (台北縣八里鄉博物館路200號)
■ 3pm on Sunday
■ Entrance is free

BY BRADLEY WINTERTON

MUSIC

A respite from the pre-Christmas frenzy

With so many festive events looming in the run-up to Christmas, it seems suitable to retreat into something purely musical. Two concerts next week fit the bill exactly, taking place on consecutive evenings. So if you come over all Scrooge, there'll be no shortage of respite, in Taipei at least, from the pre-Christmas confection.

The youthful Haydn Trio Eisenstadt is one of the world's most highly regarded chamber music lineups. The trio is appearing at Taipei's cozy Novel Hall in a program of Haydn and Schubert, plus a short modern fantasy on Haydn's many happy rondos by William Bolcom.

Haydn brought the piano trio to maturity. Previously the keyboard had dominated, with the violin and cello merely strumming along. Indeed, the two works the Eisenstadt are playing in Taipei were published in 1797 as "trio sonatas with accompaniment for violin and cello." But in giving all instrumentalists equal importance, Haydn gave birth to the classical piano trio; he'd already done the same for the string quartet.

Haydn wrote 43 piano trios, and the Eisenstadt will play two of the finest on Tuesday, numbers 27 and 29 (performed in reverse order).

Haydn is credited with an easygoing virtuosity and irrepressible good humor, but the virtuosity shouldn't be underestimated. He was nothing if not modest, but his underlying intelligence is very real.

The program concludes with a glorious work where everything is on display for what it is, and the heart very much on the sleeve. This is Schubert's *Piano Trio in E-flat Major*, where all Haydn's preparatory spadework leads to a full and rich harvest. Master cellist Pablo Casals was once so moved when recording the slow movement that he could be heard moaning none too quietly throughout, and the engineers hadn't the heart (or perhaps the technology) to edit it out.

It's always hard to turn down the chance to hear again Taiwan's magnificent Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, the world's only wholly privately funded orchestra. It's playing Prokofiev's 5th Symphony and Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* at the National Concert Hall on Wednesday under the orchestra's charismatic conductor Gernot Schmalfuss.

If there was a major influence on Dvorak it was surely Schubert, and the Czech's much-loved cello concerto arguably owes something to the piano trio.

The Evergreen's soloist will be Taiwan's Ling-yi Ou Yang (歐陽怡宜). Her CD combining classical cello and Taiwanese Aboriginal music, *Momoyama Lawkahl!*, was a great success in 2006. She's also recorded Bach's six suites for solo cello, and on Wednesday evening she'll be performing another of the greatest masterpieces of the classical cello repertory.

The program concludes with the most popular of Prokofiev's seven symphonies, the Fifth, completed in 1944.

Both the Eisenstadt Trio and Taiwan's Evergreen Orchestra are essentially young groupings, and their performances in Taipei on consecutive nights constitute a pre-Christmas gift to the capital's classical music lovers.



The Haydn Trio Eisenstadt performs at Novel Hall on Tuesday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIEDL JANKOSCHER

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Haydn Trio Eisenstadt
WHEN: Tuesday at 7:30pm
WHERE: Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
ADMISSION: NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available online at www.artstickets.com or by calling (02) 3393-9888

WHAT: Evergreen Symphony Orchestra
WHEN: Wednesday at 7:30pm
WHERE: National Concert Hall, Taipei City
ADMISSION: NT\$500 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticket outlets, online at www.ticket.com.tw or by calling (02) 2351-6799

UPCOMING

BY NOAH BUCHAN

The Lung Ying-tai Cultural Foundation (龍應台文化基金會) hosts a discussion tomorrow afternoon beginning at 2pm with renowned scientist Paul C.W. Chu (朱經武) titled **Qu Yuan Is a Scientist: When Poetry and Science Meet (屈原是個科學家 — 人文與科學相遇)** as part of its MediaTek lecture series. Using one of China's most famous poets, Qu Yuan (屈原), as a starting point, Lung Ying-tai (龍應台) and Chu will discuss the relationship between science and the humanities. Chu is an eminent scientist who pioneered developments in the field of superconductivity.

► Taipei Salon (台北沙龍), Qu Yuan Is a Scientist: When Poetry and Science Meet (屈原是個科學家 — 人文與科學相遇) at Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山



Paul C.W. Chu discusses the relationship between the humanities and science tomorrow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LUNG YING-TAI CULTURAL FOUNDATION

堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號). The lecture will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Mandarin (earphones can be rented at the venue for NT\$200 or NT\$100 with student ID). Admission is free, but attendees must register online at www.civictaipei.org or by calling (02) 3322-4907
► Tomorrow from 2pm to 4pm