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Our Magazines

the Beijinger - March 2012: Break Into Publishing



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Recent Blog Posts

- Jacob Wickham: There's No Brewery Like Home** by Iain Shaw on Mar 25 6:00pm
- Wukan: Not Your Average Hair Salon** by Tiffany Wang on Mar 25 2:00pm
- Not Lovin' It: McDonald's Serves the Latest Food Scandal** by Lauren McCarthy on Mar 25 10:00am
- Blood and Booze: A Drink With Italian Horror Comedy Director...** by Kyle Mullin on Mar 24 6:00pm
- Is Beijing Lagging Behind?** by Joana Melo on Mar 24 4:00pm
- Win Tickets To Eatliz & DME's JUE Finale!** by Paul Ryding on Mar 24 12:00pm
- Living La Vida Local: Trashy Art, Organic Tofu and Girl Band...** by Tiffany Wang on Mar 24 10:00am
- the Beijinger's Six-Word Writing Competition: All the Entries...** by Jonathan White on Mar 23 8:00pm
- Talking Balls: Ducks Hunted, Guoan Stunted & Rio To China?** by Jonathan White on Mar 23 6:00pm
- Spring Into Action: New Seasonal Menus Around Town** by Josh Ong on Mar 23 4:00pm

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Most Viewed Last 7 Days

- The 2012 Reader Restaurant Awards Results: Part One (1572)
- The 2012 Reader Restaurant Awards Results: Part Two (1247)
- The Lighter Side of China: Lost in Translation (1076)
- Is Your House Getting Colder? (737)
- The Beijinger vs Dianping: 2012 Edition (703)
- The Lighter Side of China: English Names & The Chinese (527)
- News You Might Have Missed: Politics, Plans and Beijing Tops... (513)
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Recent comments

Re: Not Lovin' It: McDonald's

**Summer Lei's Gently Eclectic Spectacle**

Submitted on Mar 22, 2012 10:00am by Kyle Mullin Permalink  
Interview Events JUE Music + Art Festival 2012 Live Music



It's not just her music that's eclectic, but her very inspiration. The JUE Fest's climactic weekend features Taiwanese 'musical poet' **Summer Lei**, who blends intimate lyrics with gentle backing piano and searing violins on recorded songs like "Homeland." Her live performances are a hodgepodge of sonnets, melancholy harmonies, and flickering slide shows. Below, Summer Lei details the value of her shows' assorted components and her music's mixed muses – drawing on everything from simple changes in weather to the political tensions between China and Japan, Israel and Palestine.

**What is the latest thing that has inspired you to write fresh lyrics?**

I recently had a dream about being back one morning at my university campus. My friends and I, we all had so many points to prove. Then rain fell gently and landed on our arms – it was very cool, a dream of clear air. There was the scent of the grassland, and our world was about to begin. This was a gentle dream, and when I woke up, some new song ideas started to emerge.

**You're a musical poet. Do you see music and poetry as being two different things, or one and the same?**

I feel that music and poetry are two different things, but they can often invoke each other. They can pump each other up, and in turn show the enthusiasm of the whole world.

**Tell me about your collaboration with American jazz pianist Uri Caine. How is he a unique artist?**

Uri is of an older generation, and he helped me in ways he may not know. Before I met him I was still stuck in this idea that my music needed precisely constructed details. But during our live and recorded performances he taught me the importance of improvisation, how it was freeing, because his career went from classical training to jazz lightness. He helped me easily cross strict boundaries.

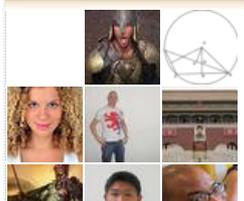
**How did you first come across Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto's work?**

Sakamoto was my favorite musician in high school. I loved his work after seeing director Nagisa Oshima's *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* – a film that starred David Bowie. Sakamoto composed original music for the movie on a synthesizer. He had a very forward perspective.

**Have China's tensions with Japan ever hindered your absorption of Sakamoto's work? Did any of your classmates tease you for listening to a Japanese artist?**

Let us come to you!

Who's Online



**Serves the Latest Food Scandal**

by BenArnold4u Mar 25 6:19pm

**Re: Not Lovin' It: McDonald's Serves the Latest Food Scandal**

by georgefefe Mar 25 10:55am

**Re: Is Beijing Lagging Behind?**

by georgefefe Mar 24 9:03pm

**Re: Enter The Dragon Caption Competition - Day 3!**

by eavedrop44 Mar 24 8:06pm

**Re: Facebook with Chinese Characteristics? The latest on ...**

by ggkriss Mar 24 7:45pm

**Re: Shanzhai Victoria's Secret Show at Chengdu University**

by Sydney55 Mar 24 12:30am

**Re: the Beijinger's Six-Word Writing Competition: All the .....**

by Jerry Mar 23 12:14pm

**Re: The beijingkids School Choice Fair**

by admin Mar 23 6:23am

**Re: the Beijinger's Six-Word Writing Competition: All the .....**

by bendymind Mar 22 8:54pm

**Re: The beijingkids School Choice Fair**

by admin Mar 22 4:12pm

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-  **Beijing News** (1050)
-  **Beijing People** (645)
-  **Books** (147)
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**Archive**

Let me put it this way – I love this book called *Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society*. It's by this Israeli-born conductor named Daniel Barenboim and a Palestinian-American scholar named Edward W. Said. They write very thoroughly about the hatreds between their cultures. They also write about co-founding the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra of young musicians from both Israel and the Arab world. Barenboim said their music is "not a project for peace, it's a fight against ignorance."

**Tell me more about your own collaborations, especially the visual components of your shows.**

Typically I use a projector to show friends' drawn illustrations or videos. They are my very favorite artists, and we can work together to create a mysterious fantasy world. With their paintings and my singing, I feel very safe.

Summer Lei will perform at *Yugong Yishan* on March 23 at 9pm. Tickets are RMB 260. For more information, visit [yugongyishan.com](http://yugongyishan.com), [summerlei.com](http://summerlei.com), [juefestival.com](http://juefestival.com), or call 187 0113 3908.

Photo: [summerleiblog.blogspot.com](http://summerleiblog.blogspot.com)

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**Raiding Party: Rainbow Danger Club Descend on Beijing for Sh...**



As this year's JUE festivities draw to a close, they're looking to wind up with a bang this weekend as the festival hosts a Shanghai invasion on the capital. As part of the aptly named Shanghai Weekend, two of the southern city's live scene stalwarts, Rainbow Danger Club and Friend or Foe, will bring their legendary live performances to 2 Kolegas on Saturday night. "Vibrant" is one word you could use to describe the experience. "Insane" is another. We got the skinny from Rainbow Danger Club on "the scene," their exuberant live show and a recent run-in with Beijing authorities.

[Read more...](#)

**Down the Rabbit Hole: Win Tickets to Chapelier Fou**



March, 2012 (115)  
February, 2012 (127)  
January, 2012 (125)  
December, 2011 (145)  
November, 2011 (147)  
October, 2011 (148)

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## Latest Reviews



### Terrible food, fake reviews

Review of *Nathan's Famous* by *nanmanzi*

Mar 25 10:20am



### Horrible Place

Review of *El Nido/Bar No. 59* by *suchormichael*

Mar 24 9:55am



### No value for money

Review of *Blue Frog* by *Katerina230723*

Mar 24 12:08am



### REPLY NEEDED: Customer service literally KILLS. NEVER this b...

Review of *Migas Restaurant and Lounge* by *gsc*

Mar 23 7:36pm



### Very satisfying place to get some quick food

Review of *Nathan's Famous* by *RussellArch*

Mar 23 12:56pm

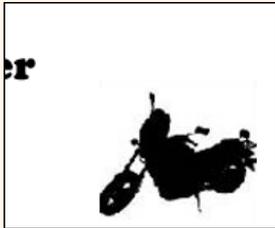


### The same sh\*t quality

Review of *Carol and Luc* by *weagesdf*

Mar 22 9:31am

[more](#)



## Work at True Run

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Classically trained violinist cum neo-electronicist **Chapelier Fou** performs in Beijing on Thursday night as the **JUE** festival continues to attract an eclectic mix of artists from around the world for its 2012 edition. We asked the Metz-native about his penchant for Lewis Carroll characters, performing in China and his love for electro. We've also got tickets for tomorrow's gig to give away. Read on to win.

[Read more...](#)

## One Man and His Uke: Courtney Wing on His Beijing Show



Canadian multi-instrumentalist **Courtney Wing** hits Beijing on Sunday night as part of **JUE**. His show is being dubbed one of the **not-to-be-missed performances** of the festival. We took the opportunity to ask the Vancouverite about his live performances, his influences and his strange penchant for bin-dipping.

[Read more...](#)

## China's Prodigal Daughter



Café background music is supposed to help us unwind, not write blockbuster movie scripts. But when Beijing bistro **Navena Cafe** blared a throbbing ballad called "**Drenched**" one afternoon last year, Hong Kong rom-com auteur Pang Ho-Cheung started writing a new screenplay then and there as his coffee order percolated. Eventually, he found the song's source: a Myspace page belonging to Vancouver-based, **Harbin-born songstress Qu Wanting**.

[Read more...](#)

## From Hard Rocker to Blue-Collar Worker



Steve Mackay

He fell from punk stardom to trade labor. Then the world literally left him for dead. Saxophonist Steve Mackay will hit the Hot Cat Club on March 16 to promote his latest solo album, *Sometimes Like This I Talk*. But he's best known for playing on The Stooges' seminal 1970 release *Fun House*. His sweltering horn blasts were a sonic mimicry of front man Iggy Pop's infamous swagger.

[Read more...](#)

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