

# Italian Jazz jump starts Beijing Jazz series

By Zhang Dongya

The Italy Jazz Weekend Opening Concert will be held at The Imperial Granary next Thursday. It is the opening concert for Italy Jazz Week, also for the whole jazz series in Beijing.

Four jazz ensembles, 3 quietmen, Ivan Valentini's Slanting Quintet, Manomanouche and Q with eighteen artists will perform in the concert.

Three young musicians from Turin's 3quietmen combine their different backgrounds to form a contemporary project that is not limited to the boundaries of typical jazz. Ivan Valentini has been a leading figure since the early 1990s, in a variety of musical settings, moving comfortably from improvised music to other forms of art, primarily performing his own compositions.

The four jazz bands, invited by the Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, represent the best of Italian jazz. Jazz fans will enjoy a typical feast of Italian jazz, the organizer said.

It is the first time, Italian jazz will be presented at The



Manomanouche, one of the recommended Jazz bands for the festival

Photo provided by The Imperial Granary

Imperial Granary, with a seating capacity of 100 people, instead of the music hall and opera shows usually staged here. Special acoustic effects created by the trapezoid-shaped wall and the sloped roof has praised by numerous musicians and sound engineers.

In the following two months, Matt Brubeck from the US and David Braid from Canada, The

Core Norway and Blood Drum Spirit will strut their stuff in the Imperial Granary Jazz Series. This jazz festival lasts until June.

When: 7:30 pm (6:30 buffet), April 10

Where: The Imperial Granary, 22 Dongsishitiao, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6409 6477, 6409 6499  
Admission: 980, 780, 580 yuan (including dinner)

## Celine Dion refunds tickets

By Gan Tian

Canadian performer Celine Dion canceled her Beijing concert at the Workers' Stadium on April 13 for unknown reasons. Ticket holders can easily get ticket refunds.

For refunds, call 400 707 9999 and 6551 6590, or log online at emma.cn for details. Fans can return tickets to the Emma Ticket Office which will refund the value of the ticket. Don't forget to bring along your ticket receipts as proof of purchase.

The service will last until April 13. Those who are not in Beijing can mail their tickets to: Emma Tickets Office, 509, Gehua Building, 1, Qinglong Hutong, Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100007. The staff will transfer refund amounts to the holder's original account within three days.

The Emma Tickets Office is located on the east side of the north gate of Workers' Stadium with office hours between 9 am 6 pm from today to April 12, and 9 am to 10 pm on April 13.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

**I have a mole on my face. What bothers me is that it is painful. Is there a clinic in Beijing specializing in skin and skin problems? Do they speak English and how can I get my mole checked to see if it is cancerous?**

Just go to a normal hospital with a Chinese friend if you are concerned about the language barrier. Register at the skin department and tell the doctor you need a cancer check on your mole. The doctor will tell you how to go through the procedure. If you are concerned that they will give you expensive medicine, just tell the doctor you are on the Chinese medical insurance system and you want the medicine prescribed to be included in the medical reimbursement system.

**I am living in Chaoyang district and I want to go to the Zhongguancun Electric markets, but I heard it was very busy and hard to bargain. Do you know when most electronics shops close there?**

Most popular electronics malls in Zhongguancun open at 9 am and close at 7 pm.

**I recently read an article from Xinhuanet and it said that some museums in China offer free admission now. But it did not mention if this was true in Beijing or what kind of museums are involved.**

Beijing has 29 museums now free to the public free. Beijing Today has a detailed report about it in the last issue. You can find more information by searching google. These museums do not include popular tourist spots like the Forbidden City or Summer Palace, but they are still worth visiting for varied kinds of information including military or nature museums and China's movie history.

**What is the average rental price for foreigners in Beijing?**

For average young expats in town, sharing is the most economic way for better quality living quarters and the average price will be from 1,500-2,500 yuan per room, depending on locations and house quality.

For expats assigned to work here, their housing reimbursement starts from US \$1,000 and up. And generally speaking, apartments around Moma or Season's Park are cheaper than new residential apartments near Guomao.

(By Wei Ying)

# Sino-French art sprouts in spring

By Han Manman

For the third year Festival Croisements will open April 3 with the staging of famous French opera *Le Roi d'Ys*.

Starting April 3, the two-month-long festival croisements 2008 will present more than 100 shows and exhibitions featuring French artists collaborating with Chinese counterparts from 18 towns and cities in China.

Under the direction of the France Culture Centre and Embassy of France in China, the Festival Croisements 2008 includes music, dance, theatre, circus performances and visual arts.

The following are highlights of some events in Beijing.

### Le Roi d'Ys

One of the most beautiful romantic French music works, *Le Roi d'Ys* is taken from a Breton legend, when the town of Ys was engulfed by floods in the fifth century.

Where: Beijing National Grand Theatre

When: April 3 to 6

### A sigh of love - In the Mood for Love

Inspired by the same story that Wong Kar Wai used for his film *In the Mood for Love*, this ballet links classical and modern dance in this particular production which represents the strong creativity of

the Shanghai Ballet Company.

Where: Tianqiao Theatre

When: April 19 to 21

### Rameau's Bossa Fataka

Hip-Hop and African contemporary dance, closing act of the Croisements festival

Where: National Grand Theatre

When: June 11

### Arlequin Explores China

Actors, narrators, musicians and acrobats invite us to travel with them from Venice to Beijing, moving from commedia dell'arte to traditional Beijing Opera allowing us to savour and enjoy a love story filled with vengeance, passion and jealousy.

A bilingual play in Chinese and French

Where: Nine Theater

When: May 25 to 27

### Forty years of photography

World-renowned photographer, Marc Riboud reveals here a look at Chinese history from the Mao era to the present day. His photos offer a realistic view of China which is impregnated with beauty.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery

When: April 26 to June 14

In addition, the French film festival will be held from April 10 to 21 in the local cinemas. For more information about Festival Croisements 2008, visit festival-croisements.cn.



A scene from *Le Roi d'Ys*

Photo provided by French Embassy