

Musical feast beats the heat

By Helen Pan, Intern Hu Xinyi & Liu Mengyu



Guitarkestra in Wuhan posing for photos after performances Photo by Helen Pan

A spectacular open-air concert for Music Day was held at the Hankou Riverside Park on June 24, presenting music performances from home and France. The near four-hour music show, enjoyed by hundreds of people, created its own heat wave.

The concert began with Guitarkestra in Wuhan, a group of 40 local guitarists and 2 percussionists. Led by musician Lone Kent, the band performed unique guitar music created or adapted from popular songs by Kent. The audience was enthralled as they enjoyed the massive sound show. One piece of music, adapted from "the Butterfly Lovers," caused

quite a stir and was very well received. The piece showed the potential of how traditional elements can be incorporated into post-rock and contemporary music.

Guitarkestra in Wuhan was followed by the Jungle Mico Project, a domestic band known for its combination of avant-garde electronic pop and ethnic music. "It is an exploration of a new musical territory. I believe this type of music will become the precedent for a fashion trend, and will be accepted by more Chinese music lovers in the future," said Yang Wei, the composer for the band before their performance. His wish was supported by the audiences'

warm response.

Colors in the Street, a four-man band inspired by British pop, brought another exciting moment. Their energetic act quickly got the crowd pumped, and pretty soon they were dancing and singing to the lively beats. As the final act, they brought down the curtain on the concert as well as the celebration of Music Day in Wuhan.

Two previous concerts for Music Day were held in Caidian on June 18, and Wuhan Plaza on June 23. As part of the annual Croisements Festival, Music Day has grown into one of the biggest foreign cultural events in China.

Qintai Concert Hall to launch "Open the Door of Art 2017"

From July 14 to August 20, the Qintai Concert Hall will host "Open the Door of Art — 2017 Summer Art Festival," entertaining young art lovers with 23 wonderful performances and three art summer camps. All tickets for the shows will cost no more than RMB 100.

During the event, the Qintai Concert Hall will present various forms of art performances, such as the symphony, piano, violin,

guzheng, *erhu*, stage play, percussion, children's chorus, Peking Opera, and jazz. The organizer has also invited famous artists such as violinist Sheng Zhongguo, clarinet player Wang Tao, pianist Sheng Yuan, and Peking Opera master Yang Shaopeng. In addition, three art summer camps on the *guzheng*, *guqin*, and guitar will be held.

According to the Qintai Concert Hall, the summer

performances will primarily target children. "In terms of content of the concerts, all the performances will be accessible to people of all ages. We will also communicate with the artists in advance so they will be better prepared. During the performances, the artists will give related music introductions to audiences, so that everyone can enjoy the music and deepen their understanding of art."

The Bright Girl prescreens in Wuhan

By He Ya

The Bright Girl, a new film yet to be released, prescreened in Wuhan on June 22.

The story takes place in a high school affiliated to a conservatory of music where Xu Lu, a young girl studying the *Yangqin*, falls in love with a piano student, only to be subjected to scorn and ridicule. This results in a tangled "warfare" between two music departments on the campus. The film incorporates elements such as ancient fantasy, anime, and hikikomori. The climax of the film comes with notes played on a set of chime bells the protagonist and her friends find in the school's warehouse.

In a meeting with the film crew after the screening, An Li, a local musician, recognized on first sight that the chime bells appearing in the film were produced by the Wuhan Institute of Arts and Crafts in 1983. An Li said, "This movie will make more young people get to know the beauty of the ancient folk music and the treasure of Hubei Province."

The Bright Girl will be on show all over the country from July 21.

Another Me in the World auditions young actors

By Wang Juan

Another Me in the World began its audition of young actors at Han Street on June 18, attracting about 300 candidates.

Another Me in the World will be produced by Wuhan Boya Jinyu Media. The film will participate in the San Diego International Children's Film Festival in August, 2017.

The film will be presented in the form of unit plays which are written by three children telling three independent stories: a leukemia-stricken child's transformation into a superhero to defeat monsters; a small elder sister's fear and expectation concerning the birth of her younger brother; and a coddled urban girl swapping life with a rural boy left behind.

The three child writers showed up at the audition site. One of them is ten-year Ye Ziqian who wrote his story based on his own experiences fighting with leukemia.