

Xiao He

PRESS BOOK



January 2010

Modesti New Music Online, USA

“Steim@40! Presents: Beijing Underground”

December 5, 2009

By Jeroen Groenewegen

<http://modisti.com/news/?p=19259>

“On his latest double album “The Performance of Identity” XIAO HE combines acoustic guitar with unlikely guttural vocal sounds. Live he creates intricate multi-layered soundscapes, or plays a Peking Opera clown.”

MTV Iggy, USA

“Beijing Bands Tour the US, Rock America’s Proverbial Socks Off”

November 16, 2009

By Adriane

<http://blog.mtviggy.com/2009/11/06/beijing-bands-tour-the-us-rock-americas-proverbial-socks-off/>

MTV Iggy, USA

“Show Review: P.K. 14, Carsick Cars, and Xiao He at Powerhouse Arena”

November 16, 2009

By Adriane

<http://blog.mtviggy.com/2009/11/06/show-review-p-k-14-carsick-cars-and-xiao-he-at-powerhouse-arena/>

The Washington Post, USA

“Gallery opening of the week”

November 15, 2009

By The Washington Post staff

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/05/AR2009110501847.html>

CNN, USA

“China's latest export -- rock 'n' roll -- hits the U.S.”

November 13, 2009

By Jo Ling Kent

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/asiapcf/11/12/china.rock/index.html>

SmartShanghai.com, China

“Maybe Mars in NYC”

November 12, 2009

By Tim Franco

http://www.smartshanghai.com/blog/1467/Maybe_Mars_in_NYC.html

The New York Times, USA

“Weekly Popcast: Wale, P.K. 14 and Carsick Cars”

November 12, 2009

By The New York Times staff

<http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/11/12/weekly-popcast-wale-pk14-and-carsick-cars/?scp=1&sq=carsick%20cars&st=cse>**The Washington Post, USA**

The Washington Post, USA

“Beijing surprise: A 'Sound Kapital' of indie rock”

November 12, 2009

By David Malitz

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/12/AR2009111210354.html>

Cool Hunting, USA

“Sound Kapital: Beijing's Music Underground”

November 6, 2009

By Ashley Eldridge

http://www.coolhunting.com/archives/2009/11/sound_kapital.php

CNN, USA

“China Exports Rock and Roll”

November 5, 2009

By CNN staff

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/showbiz/2009/11/05/chang.china.exports.rock.roll.cnn>

Time Out New York, USA

“Carsick Cars + P.K.14: Being's experimental rock scene arrives in New York City”

November 5, 2009

By Dan Shapiro

<http://newyork.timeout.com/articles/music/80146/carsick-cars-and-pk14-at-powerhouse-arena-glasslands-and-santos-party-house-concert-previews>

CU ARTS, USA

“Maybe Mars presents the Chinese underground invasion tour in collaboration with the Arts Initiative at Columbia University”

November 5, 2009

By CU ARTS staff

<http://cuarts.com/artsglobal/chineseunderground>

Brooklyn Vegan, USA

“Carsick Cars, PK-14 & Xiao He are coming from China - 2009 Tour Dates (6 NYC shows)”

November 3, 2009

By Bill Pearis

http://www.brooklynvegan.com/archives/2009/11/carsick_cars_pk.html

Jake Newby, China

“Xiao He and Zhi Wang, Yuyintang”

August 22, 2009

By Jake Newby

<http://www.kungfuology.com/jakenewby/2009/08/xiao-he-and-zhi-wang-yuyintang.html>

“Added to his looping and building of vocal layers and guitar tracks, it made for a fascinating show with incredible depth given that he was performing solo.”

The Wall Street Journal, USA

“Rocking Beijing”

July 24, 2009

By Janet Foo

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124831869681774897.html>

“He Guofeng (also known as Xiao He) -- a well-known electronic musician -- played a piece on his laptop that incorporated the sounds of howling wolves and falling rain; other of his works bore the influence of Beijing opera. He was followed by Hanggai, an Inner Mongolian folk band playing traditional instruments and using throat singing -- a vocal technique that allows singers to produce two distinct tones at the same time.”

Beijing Beat, China

“Xiao He Release: Big Night For Beijing Folkies”

July 2, 2009

By Mark Godfrey

http://www.cluas.com/indie-music/Blogs/Beijing_Beat/tabid/81/EntryId/1089/Xiao-He-Release-Big-Night-For-Beijing-Folkies.aspx

“Xiao He, one of the most enduring names in Chinese folk and art rock. Less ostentatious and written-up than their indie and punk counterparts, China's folk musicians fall between those who consciously ape westerners like Bob Dylan in their work, and those who mine for influences the native folk singing traditions of rural China, a style that was particularly popular in the early years of the Communist regime which took power in 1949: tales of peasant struggles, these are the stuff of Woody Guthrie but without guitar accompaniment.”

DimSum, UK

“Beyond The Wall: New Music in China”

June 7, 2009

By Simon Crab

<http://www.dimsum.co.uk/culture/beyond-the-wall-new-music-in-china.html>

“Xiao He’s music is a rich idiomatic, messy collision of Looney Tunes and a bus full of Mongolian shepherds. Xiao He takes inspiration from Chinese comic opera archetypes; a bewildering array of vocal characters are simultaneously layered, looped and mixed over each other complemented by simple guitar rhythms, and spontaneous acoustic percussion. Despite it’s improvisational nature, the music is perfectly timed with precise edits and split-second changes; a refreshing and welcome change from the usual unstructured loop-and-layer ‘experimental’ approach.”

Timeout Beijing Magazine, China

“Class of ‘09”

May 1, 2009

By Timeout Beijing Music Staff

<http://www.timeout.com/cn/en/beijing/aroundtown/feature/7620/class-of-09.html>

“A sign of his brilliance is that he’s every bit as captivating when he’s just on his own with an acoustic guitar. ”

The Beijinger, China

“Folk or Metal? Sunny Park or Dirty Club?”

April 29, 2009

By Wang Ge

<http://www.thebeijinger.com/blog/2009/04/29/Folk-or-Metal-Sunny-Park-or-Dirty-Club>

“The 34-year-old Hebei native is one of the most dynamic members of Beijing’s local music scene. He’s best known as the founder of folk/experimental troupe Glamorous Pharmacy – imagine a Chinese version of Animal Collective, added with the sound of harmonica and Peking Opera. Call the guy psycho or not, he’s always exploring for new possibilities.”

Lost At E Minor, USA

“New Music / Xiao He”

August 20, 2008

By Gerry Mak

<http://www.lostateminor.com/2008/08/20/xiao-he/>

Tencent Entertainment, China

“Glorious Pharmacy: No Madness, No Immortal”

February 2, 2009

By Li Xin

<http://ent.qq.com/a/20090202/000280.htm>

Translated quote:

“美好药店的首发专场，一场具有双重性格的表演。

美好药店的音乐，一个中性的家伙，双子座，传统的血液在体内流淌，但是不好好表达，反讽、戏弄，不按套路出牌，多了也腻。所谓无师无门无知无畏，也只是一种表象。……他的表达，有时候拽得不行，有时候却老实巴交。所谓实验，反传统，反逻辑，也必然在相对反的对象身上有一个属于自己的对与其立的传统与逻辑。实验音乐不是过程，是结果本身。”

"On their debut album release show, Glorious Pharmacy played with dual dispositions, Gemini like, tradition coursing through their body while they refused to toe the corporate line: irony and mocking. There are more hiding behind their "ignorant dauntlessness". (ignorant dauntless is just the vague semblance) ...Sometimes they crow over, sometimes they behaved gentle. There has to be something between the corresponding points, experimental and ordinary, counter-tradition and tradition, anti-logic and logic. Experimental music is somehow a result rather than a process."

China.Org.CN, China

“Beijing folk music gaining popularity”

October 30, 2007

By Zhang Ming'ai & Yang Xi

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/entertainment/230178.htm>

“He has written many heart-stirring, creative, and unique folk songs. Each of his performances pleasantly surprises fans, who have affectionately dubbed him a "music wizard.”

CRI ENGLISH.com, China

“A Glamorous Pharmacy to Support Lou Reed”

June 6, 2007

By CRI ENGLISH.com staff

<http://english.cri.cn/3086/2007/06/19/1261@239988.htm>

Cool Hunting, USA

“Five Chinese Indie Bands”


March 23, 2007

By Tim Yu

http://www.coolhunting.com/archives/2007/03/chinese_indepen.php

“A folk-rock solo musician his music, at times, is reliant on using his guitar equally as a percussive instrument as he wails intricate rhythms and sings short concise folk songs. On this particular album much of the melody is carried out by an accordion accompanied by a hand drum and his voice swells from whispering to all out screaming.”

Music



Jul 3: Xiao He
New album, same eccentric. See listing, this page.

MUSIC

What is it about summer that says to musicians, "Now is the time to release an album?" We're not sure. We're not complaining, either. Just show us the record.

Let's begin with **Sand**, since it goes oh-so-well with the season. The blues rockers will finally release their sophomore album, *The World Has Become a Fairytale* (see Review, p84), on July 25 at **Jiangjinju Bar**. To say this record has been long-awaited would be an understatement — eight years have passed since the band's debut.

On the topic of debuts, **Girls Are Waiting To Meet You** on July 16. No, girls aren't really waiting to meet you, but the folk rock band — GAWTMY for short — is certainly waiting for you to buy their first album, which will be released that night at **Yugong Yishan**. And while we're on the subject of releases at YGYS, **Second Hand Rose** unleashes a new EP on July 10.

Someone who is certainly not releasing an EP is **Xiao He**. Quite the contrary. The experimental folk artist/extraterrestrial sound traveler has put together a mamba jamba of an album — two albums, to be exact — rumored to cost an arm and a leg. Still, if you've ever seen Xiao He before or are familiar with **Glamorous Pharmacy**, then you know it will be money worth spending. His jam-packed double CD, *The Performance of Identity* (see Review, p84), drops on July 3 at D-22.

Another big cheese in the Beijing scene releasing an album is **Brain Failure**. *Downtown Production* (see Review, p84) will be the fourth LP by the punk rock idols, and you can crash their release party at **The Star Live** on July 17.

Speaking of parties, Dr. Feel Good, Finger Family, Chinatown, Pencil and others get together for one at **MAO Livehouse** on July 11. And then they offer you a compilation album: In times of financial constraint, more bands can be better than one.

Except if it's **Carsick Cars**. You definitely want an album of just them — maybe even two or three — because yes, they are that good. The highly anticipated *You Can Listen, You Can Talk* was finally made available (after a few stalls) at the end of June. More on the band's man of mystery, **Zhang Shouwang**, in this month's Music Feature (p85).

In other news, **Jimmy's Thai Kitchen & Lounge** (see What's New: Bars & Clubs, p78) is not releasing an album, as restaurants and bars tend not to do such things. But they are offering live jazz and, even better, **big band swing**. Combine that with hot chili and coconut curry, and it's a surefire winner. Or just a sure fire. Likely in the tummy after eating all that Thai food and then swing-dancing all night long. (Disclaimer: *The Beijinger* is not responsible for any dangerous aftereffects due to combining food and music.) *Lisa Liang*

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July 2009

The Performance of Identity 身份的表演 Xiao He



When compared to his melodic solo debut, *Birds That Can Fly High Don't Land on the Backs of Oxen That Can't Run Fast*, the second album by Beijing experimental folk mystic and Glamorous Pharmacy frontman Xiao He pushes even closer to the edge between music and performance art. On this double CD release, he completely forsakes lyrics, using vocals as a minimalist instrument to accompany an acoustic guitar.

The first disc borrows from Mongolian throat-singing, Taiwanese aboriginal folk and country-style blues, whereas disc two — titled "One Man's Orchestra" — is a collection of his live recordings. On the latter, he breaks away from the expected and goes wild with industrial noises, electronica samples and electric guitar, all while doing what he does best: improvising. True, sometimes he can get a bit crazy — hysterical, even — but he's also one of the most talented artists in Beijing, capable of creating astoundingly beautiful melodies. *Wang Ge*

84 the Beijinger / July 2009 www.TheBeijinger.com