

# MUSIC

All event listings are accurate at time of press and subject to change

For venue details, see directories, p56

Send events to listings@thebeijinger.com by Feb 10



Feb 6 & 27: **Ourself Beside Me**

Rock girls can be nice. See listings, this page and p66.

Ready for firecrackers? I've still got the haunting memory from last year of feeling like I was in a warzone. Firecrackers should be banned forever – just like all dangerous, pointless sports in British schools should be (I mean rugby).

And then, meeting relatives you haven't been in contact with for years and listening to them go "You need to get married and have kids" or "How much do you earn?" should be a lot of fun, whereas responding with "Yeah you're right about that, thanks for the intense curiosity about my private life" is not. All right, I'm lying – the latter part always makes me happy.

Probably for all these reasons, most bands are hiding indoors in February. **2 Kolegas** will be closed for the whole month, while other venues take long holidays during Spring Festival like we all do. Despite the lack of live events, there are still reasons to get excited. Someone is scheduled to come to town on **April 4** to give us all a chance to hear songs from his latest Christmas album. Yes, **Bob Dylan** is making a Beijing stop at a TBD venue on his Asian tour – maybe. Another possible glimmer of hope to help us survive the winter (and more likely to happen) is the **Show of Peace** concert on **April 17**. So far, rumored acts include **Black Eyed Peas**, **50 Cent** (a man shot nine times ... at a peace concert?) and guess who's back – **Jimmy Page**. Visit [www.showofpeace.com](http://www.showofpeace.com) for more details, and keep your eyes on [www.TheBeijinger.com/blog](http://www.TheBeijinger.com/blog) for updates.

Back to the local scene: After a long absence, Yang Fan, Emi and Xie Han return with their garage band **Ourself Beside Me** (see photo, above) at **Obiwan** (Feb 6), supported by psychedelic/rockabilly trio **The Molds**. Don't worry if you miss them, as both bands will also perform at **D-22** on **February 27** with Atom and Zo's **B-side Lovers** and the experimental sci-fi boys of **Fat City**. Speaking of The Molds, on February 6, their drummer Jia Wei will have to run to another show at **MAO Livehouse**, where he'll show off by being an MC in Beijing's love-them-or-hate-them hip-hoppers **In3'er**.

Jazz lovers might want to stop by **D-22** on **February 4** to see Beijing-based American big band **The Terry Hsieh Collective** jam with Taiwanese-American singer **Jen Shyu**. For more wild factors, Beijing's funkier acid jazz band **Acid Live** (also known as Hua Live) turns it on at **MAO Livehouse** on **February 26**.

To finish the month, **Yugong Yishan** presents an indie rock night with **Ziyo**, now known as **Free The Birds** (see Feature, p64), **Chasing Star** and **Caffeine** on **February 28**, aka the Lantern Festival. However did that start in the first place? Maybe our ancestors raised those little lamps to celebrate the end of all Chinese New Year nonsense. *Wang Ge*

## Jan 29

**Acid Live, DJ Eric Lee, DJ Sean**  
Funky jazz collective jam with techno in da house. RMB 50. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Hoochie Coochie Gentleman**  
Beijing's homegrown blues band. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 8pm. Tiny Salt Coffee Club (5900 0969)

**Hummingbird**  
Salsa flavor made in Xinjiang. Free. 9.30pm. Jiangjinjiu Bar (8405 0124)

**Lidong Band, Yang Qianchi, Teng Zi**  
Ningxia folk group, supported by songstresses with their acoustic guitars. See Q&A, p66. RMB 30. 9pm. Jianghu Liveshow Bar (6401 4611)

**Lao Liu & Sand**  
Liu Donghong and his blues rock troupe greet the recently opened live house. RMB 80. 9pm. Mako Livehouse (5205 1112)

**Saw, Unregenerate Blood, Return The Truth, XitneverhappenedX, Last Chance of Youth**  
Hardcore metal night. RMB 40. 9pm. 13 Club (8261 9267)

**Sweet Rock, CAssette, Me Guan Me, Discord**  
Alternative rock in Fangjia Hutong. RMB 30. 9pm. Hot Cat Club (6400 7868)

**The First Day of Autumn, Compound-A, End of The World, Xiu Qie Dao, Sparrow**  
College rock night. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

## Jan 30

**Andrew Bird**  
Chicago's folk rock icon flies to Beijing with his multi-instrumental talent. RMB 180. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Confucius Says, Nanwu**  
Beijing's longstanding folk rockers make their return, supported by similar minds of their generation. RMB 120. 9pm. The One (8578 8853)

**Liu Er**  
Folk guitarist returns from his tour with a new album. RMB 50, RMB 40 (students). 9pm. Jianghu Liveshow Bar (6401 4611)

**Sambasia Beijing**  
Beijing's samba ensemble drums for Migrant Worker Youth School Drumming Program. RMB 30. 9.30pm. Jiangjinjiu Bar (8405 0124)

**The Offset: Spectacles, Wu & the Side Effects, Rolling Rolling, The Molds**  
Funky blues and hard rock go arty underground. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Wu Na, Xiao He, Yan Jun, Wang Fan**  
Sub Jam experimental session echoes in 798 Art Factory. RMB 15. 2pm. UCCA (8459 9269)

**Xiao He**  
Folkie weirdo Xiao He pulls his acoustic strings at Beiluogu Xiang. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 9pm. Zuiyuefang Bar (6405 4482)

## Jan 31

**Peppermoon**  
Parisian pop trio shares their dreamy sound with Beijing. RMB 180, RMB 150 (advance). 8pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Wang Juan**  
Wang Juan returns with her folk. RMB 30, RMB 20 (students). 9pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

## Feb 1

**Bu Hao Chi, Rustic & friends**  
Lucifer and his punk brothers give Wudaokou a big bang. Free. 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

## Feb 2

**The Offset: Spectacles, Josh Frank**  
Experimental Hong Kong rock trio plays their own compositions, covers and improvisations. See Feature, p64. RMB 30, RMB 20 (students). 8pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

## Feb 3

**The Discount**  
Canadian funk/reggae band get you dancing. Free. 9pm. Salud, Nanluogu Xiang (6402 5086)

## Feb 4

**Bad Apples, Mama Funker**  
Soulful rock tunes with storyteller lyrics, joined by funk dynamites. RMB 30. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**The Terry Hsieh Collective, Jen Shyu**  
Jazz songstress supported by American jazz big band. RMB 30, RMB 20 (students). 9pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

## Feb 5

**Bedstars, Empire of the Golden Egg, Me Guan Me**  
Alternative rockers gathered to make the weekend as gloomy as this winter. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Frosty Eve, Disjection, White Light, Evilthorn, Dark Haze**  
Melodic death metal with heavy Scandinavian influences, plus black metal taking it to the extreme. See photo, p66. RMB 40. 9pm. 13 Club (8261 9267)

**Misandao, Hell City, Gum Bleed**  
Punk and emo rock Gulou, call the police. RMB 50. 8.30pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)

**Niuj Paodan, Mr. Rotten, Ci Qin, My September**  
College rock bands rock for future. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**The Discounts**  
Funky reggae band from Canada play dancing rhythms. RMB 50. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

## Feb 6

**In3'er, Larry's Pizza, Dude, End of The World**  
Local rap group swears at anything alive (which would be a nice language class if you are looking for a fight on the street), and pop punk bands play it loud. Guess what? They're paying tribute to Bob Marley. RMB 60, RMB 50 (students). 9pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)

**Ourself Beside Me, The Molds**  
Yang Fang, Emi and Xie Han take the stage after a long absence, while The Molds jam the night into the era of rockabilly. See photo, this page. RMB 40 (includes a beer). 9pm. Obiwan (8322 1231)

**Propeller, Mitabe**  
Beijing's own reggae bands supported by DJs from Ultimate Production and Mei Wenti Sound. See Clubhouse, p56. RMB 50. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Shi Xiaofei, Li Wenxin, The Amazing Insurance Salesmen**  
Indie rockers jam in an intimate setting. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**Surprise, Discord, Final Message, Ordinance**

Events continued on p66

## EYE ON THE TIGER

Local bands to watch this year

by Wang Ge

The Chinese zodiac system means nothing to our rock capital – that's why you have to forget about the animal-mating, I mean the animating Cover Feature (see p18), and pay attention to Beijing's local bands. Some of them are already going

places; the others are either stepping into the scene, or not getting the attention they deserve, or just simply maintaining a low profile. These are the four bands most worth checking out. If you disagree, I don't want to know.



### The Offset: Spectacles 景观: 像同叠

Probably the most exciting discovery of 2009. This cool rock trio from Hong Kong landed with heavy bass line, erratic guitar strum, haunting viola melodies and electric organ sound. At first they did sound like a Velvet Underground cover band, but after a year of countless performances on stages around the city, they've established their own style. More importantly, these invaders from the south have a totally mature control over the instruments – by no means a given in Beijing. Having permanently relocated to the capital, The Offset: Spectacles perform their regular material mostly at D-22, but do check them out in the "Zooming Night" series on Tuesdays, where the conceptualized improvising jam session will make you feel like a lost boat in a vast, dark ocean ... Okay, that sounds horrible – just check them out.

**Band website:** They don't have a page.

*The Offset: Spectacles perform at D-22 on Feb 2. See listing, p63.*



### Free The Birds

I really thought Helen Feng was kidding about changing her band's name from Ziyu to Free The Birds. Anyway, the new name hasn't changed the danger factor of the band. Pet Conspiracy might be the best electro rock band in town, offering more excitement at parties, but lead singer Helen's indie rock project Ziyu ... nope, Free The Birds, deserves more attention, especially

since they've shifted from happy-time pop songs to dance-rock. It's still cool to label them as indie pop, since the melodies of Ziyu er, Free The Birds are as catchy as any radio-friendly tune.

**Band website:** [www.myspace.com/ziyu](http://www.myspace.com/ziyu)

*Free The Birds play YGYS on Feb 28. See listing, p66.*



### Lonely China Day 寂寞·夏·日

Well, this isn't really an "emerging" band. For years, Lonely China Day has offered one of the most mind-blowing live shows in the city. Having taken a serious attitude toward their career (somebody told me he had never seen frontman Deng Pei of this "Chinese Radiohead" drink any alcohol before going on stage), the trio

has now developed their own sound – a combination of post-rock, experimental electronica and space rock. The Tag Team flagship band has recently returned from the UK, where they performed at London's The Dublin Castle and King's Place as part of the London International Festival of Exploratory Music. They are now working on a third album.

**Band website:** [www.myspace.com/lonelychinaday](http://www.myspace.com/lonelychinaday)



### Show Oligarch 秀场寡头

Made up by artists and people working in all sorts of professions, this band is the only one on the list with a truly erratic performance schedule. (That's why you have to stay tuned to [www.thebeijinger.com](http://www.thebeijinger.com)).

Fronted by Bai Ding (who used to work as a fashion editor), this alternative/experimental rock group formed in Tongzhou, Beijing's eastern suburb – at 2005's "Frightened by Dog" (被狗惊吓的现场), a live concert series hosted by Nojiji Records. Show Oligarch, better known as Xiuchang Guatou, go on stage like twice a year with any members that are available at the time – probably the reason why they mostly stick to improvising. Bringing a mixture of noise rock, experimental jam and trip-hop sound, supported by animal costumes and VJ projects, Show Oligarch is one of those live shows you have to check out – even if you hate it so much that you actually feel more comfortable scratching your eyeballs. Get a hold of their self-recorded EP at 134 8869 2534. For their live show info, again, keep an eye on our website.

**Band website:** [www.myspace.cn/xcgt](http://www.myspace.cn/xcgt)





## Who's the Bossa?

Wang Yue's startling transition

by Wang Ge

Gentle chanting, lighthearted melodies and soft guitar riffs – is this really the same person who used to trash the stage while shouting *shabi* and *caodan* to the streets? That's right, Wang Yue, the former lead singer of the now-disbanded punk trio Hang On The Box (HOTB), has turned to jazz and bossa nova. *the Beijinger* talked to Wang about her musical U-turn.

**the Beijinger:** Have you always liked jazz and bossa nova?

**Wang Yue:** Yes, I was into Ella Fitzgerald in high school. As for bossa nova, I'm only getting my impression of it from those classic tracks, and it sounds quite comfortable.

"I was lucky enough to be presented as a bad girl when people needed one"

**tbj:** What are you listening to right now?

**WY:** I'm quite into this French alternative rock band called Phoenix. It's a shame I didn't know of them earlier. Also, check out Télépop-musik's "Dance Me" – what a gem for stretching at home!

**tbj:** Do you think you are a nice girl?

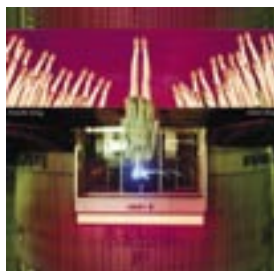
**WY:** It's a bit difficult to say. The point is even if I think I am, who's there to agree? I don't really know what it takes to be a nice girl, it all depends on your perspective. I was lucky enough to be presented as a bad girl ten years ago when people needed one.

**tbj:** What has or hasn't changed with you since HOTB?

**WY:** The early HOTB was all about rebellion – we generated attention, searched for freedom with discontent, and wouldn't go out unless our parents were pissed off with the way we dress. It was just everything a teenager wanted to do, wasn't it? Funny that after I "turned bossa nova," people start to pay attention to the lyrics. We wrote good lyrics in HOTB too, but all people see is the "Chinese girls play rock music" cliché. I still have the passion for melodies and expression, and I still love to dress up like all girls do.

Wang Yue's debut album, *The Brilliant Gia*, is available at Fusheng Record Shop (500m east of Ping'anli intersection), Xicheng District (6613 6182)

### Mind Shop 爱抚肌版灵魂商店 Muscle Snog 爱抚肌



Shanghai-based noise rock group Muscle Snog is as intriguing as it is perplexing. Right off the bat, "Mind Shop Is On Sale" offers some captivating melodies and bass lines, though the intentional volume imbalancing grows quite irritating. A bit of this album seems to be sound experimentation as well – the song titles "Fuzz Animal" and "A Specimen of Chicken" speak for themselves. "Cat" starts off promising with playground-like staccato, only to veer again into a noisy abyss. The highlight of the album, ironically, may be a track named "Think and Shit," with its equilibrium of punk-screaming, guitar-weeping and dynamic percussion. *Mind Shop* is not exactly a keeper, but it's enough to make you wonder what Muscle Snog does next. *Lisa Liang*

### Poetics: Something Between Montparnasse and Mongkok My Little Airport



Rated by AMG as the "twee-est band" in 2007, Hong Kong indie-pop duo My Little Airport heads for the experimental sphere in this recent release. In *Poetics*, the trademark love stories told by Ah P's noise guitar and Nicole's tender voice have been replaced with socialist poetry supported by minimal instrumentals and ambient effects – probably because their lyrics (a mixture of English, Cantonese and French) began to take on the social realities of post-1997 Hong Kong. Sadly for airport lovers, Nicole's left the band for Beijing (not exactly bad news for us), where she plays bass for experimental rock trio The Offset: Spectacles (See Feature, p64). Another Beijing link: the electro-friendly "When The Party Is Over, I Miss My Porn Star" plays on the title of Snapline's debut album. Use your imagination. *Wang Ge*

### The Element of Freedom Alicia Keys



Two years after her immensely successful *As I Am*, Alicia Keys shows she's still growing. She's beyond the kiddie hip-pop days (excepting the Beyoncé-tainted "Put It In a Love Song"); this fourth album's a throwback to Stevie Wonder, with a bit of Marvin Gaye mixed in. Not every song blows the mind, but the pounding bassline and Keys' penetrating voice on "Love is Blind" definitely does. Also noteworthy: the cascading percussion on "Un-Thinkable" and floating vocals of "Empire State of Mind." *Lisa Liang*

### End Times Eels



It's difficult not to judge this album by its cover ("Great, another depressing collection of harsh visions seen through children's teary eyes"), since all suspicions are proven correct upon listening. *End Times* comes only six months after their last effort, raising hopes for something good from the dusty shelf, but Mark Oliver Everett and his 12-year-old folkie-rocking Eels aren't making any breakthroughs; soft guitar chords and gradually warming piano almost sound like a B-side from *Daisies of the Galaxy*. Check out the rockabilly "Gone Man" and "Paradise Blues" for excitement. More of these, please. *Wang Ge*



## Sound of Ningxia

Lidong Band folk it up

by Wang Ge

**Y**ou may think you've never heard of Lidong Band, but if you've been spending any time at 2 Kolegas without being hammered, some of the faces in this five-piece folk band may look familiar. Liu Miao is that chubby fellow who's always there, Wu Kejia fronts blues-rock band Wu & The Side Effects (and dances the same way to all songs), and Malika is the beautiful voice of the Quebec jazz band Mademoiselle et les Chinois. To find out how the crew brings the sound of Ningxia to Beijing, *the Beijinger* spoke to lead singer Li Tailin.

**the Beijinger: Where does Lidong band come from?**

**Li Tailin:** Malika is Canadian, and the rest of us are all from Ningxia, which is China's wild west.

*"If we do have a 'biggest influence,' that means we are just copying it"*

**tbj: How did Lidong Band come together?**

**LT:** It's all about the right chemistry, really. Liu Miao (drums), Shi Zhenkai (bass) and I had a grunge band called Nucleus, but I'm more into folk music, especially Chinese folk music, so we started working on some folk materials, mostly inspired by songs passed along for generations in our Ningxia hometown. Then we got Malika (accordion) and Wu Kejia (guitar) into the band, and they've fit in pretty well.

**tbj: How would you describe your music?**

**LT:** If music can be described by words, or if words can deliver the same message and emotion as music, no one would ever listen to music or make music any more.

**tbj: Who are your biggest influences?**

**LT:** Any good music we've been listening to leaves a mark on us. So if we do have a "biggest influence," that means we are just copying it.

**tbj: What else do you guys do?**

**LT:** Liu Miao is managing 2 Kolegas, Malika works for Microsoft, Wu Kejia works for a TV production company and I'm currently unemployed.

**tbj: Is folk music about personal emotions or social realities?**

**LT:** Definitely personal emotions. It's also connected and shaped by social realities.

*Lidong Band perform at Jianghu Liveshow Bar on Jan 29. See listing, p63.*

Events continued from p63

Metal bands gather to celebrate Chinese New Year. RMB 50. 9pm. 13 Club (8261 9267)

**Unsafe, Discord, Trash Cat, Cold Case**  
The city's rising stars share a single stage in the name of punk rock. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Feb 10**

**Rio & Samaya Band**  
Latin pop music. Free. 9pm. Salud, Nanluogu Xiang (6402 5086)

**Feb 17**

**Lager**  
Gipsy guitar session. Free. 9pm. Salud, Nanluogu Xiang (6402 5086)

**Feb 18**

**DJ Ouyang, Eddie Lv, Shen Yue, Cedric**  
DJs celebrate the end of the New Year holiday. Free. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Feb 19**

**Shochu Legion, No Words, Discord**  
Punk bands play for charity. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**Feb 20**

**Gray, SSS, Guo Rui**  
Alternative rock night. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**Feb 23**

**Shouwang, Carpet of Let**  
Carsick Cars frontman plays his own experimental pieces offstage; similar minds from Tianjin support. RMB 30, RMB 20 (students). 8pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Feb 24**

**Iontach Banna**  
Irish music echoes through the hutongs. Free. 9pm. Salud, Nanluogu Xiang (6402 5086)

**Feb 26**

**Acid Live**  
Funky band of brothers make jazz wild with electro power. RMB 60, RMB 50 (advance). 9pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)

**Bother, Violence Pretender, Righteousness Person, Rampant, Final Message, Dein**  
The "Darknight Enchantment" monthly series brings together thrash metal, nu-metal and emcore. RMB 40. 9pm. 13 Club (8261 9267)

**Fanny, Me Too**  
Indie rock with electro power. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**Funk Fever, Afrokoko Roots**  
Live beat-maker and 15-piece international Afrobeat outfit go back-to-back-to-back for a night

of the funk and Afrobeat. RMB 50. 9.30pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**You Mei You, Pork, Urbis, Dirty Seed**  
Hard rockers You Mei You meet dirty punksters – see who're the tough ones. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Feb 27**

**Long Jing**  
Hip-hop takes nothing serious here. RMB 60, RMB 50 (advance, students). 9pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)

**Ourself Beside Me, The Molds, B-Side Lovers, Fat City**  
Garage rock, rockabilly, indie rock and experimental musicians shake the neighborhood. See photo, p63. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). 10pm. D-22 (6265 3177)

**Pilot & MM, La Loupe**  
Pop rock on Saturday night. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 9.30pm. What Bar (159 0123 6743)

**Section 6**  
Beijing's monthly hip-hop party. RMB 30. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Feb 28**

**A.J.K., Velvet Highway**  
Solo, sweat and screaming out loud – metal never dies. RMB 50. 9pm. 13 Club (8261 9267)

**New Perfume, Toyhead**  
Indie pop make peace with Thursday night. RMB 60, RMB 50 (advance, students). 9pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)

**Free The Birds, Chasing Star, Caffeine**  
Indie rockers celebrate the Lantern Festival with a smash hit, while the 15-day long Chinese New Year comes to an end, finally. See Feature, p64. RMB 50. 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

**Every Thu**

**Liu Yue Guitar Trio**  
Jazz lines read by classic guitar. Free. 9.30pm. East Shore Live Jazz Cafe (8403 2131)

**Every Fri**

**Nathaniel Gao Jazz Quartet**  
Sax it up with neo-jazz. Free. 10pm. East Shore Live Jazz Cafe (8403 2131)

**Every Sat**

**Liu Yuan Saxophone Quartet**  
China's jazz forefather keeps the Houhai shores smooth. Free. 10pm. East Shore Live Jazz Cafe (8403 2131)

**Every Sun**

**Moreno Donadel Trio**  
Italian pianist collaborates with a few Beijingers. Free. 9.30pm. East Shore Live Jazz Cafe (8403 2131)



**Feb 5: Evilthorn**

Is it death metal or black metal? Hard to say. See listing, p63.