

what's on

STAGE

Planet String

MASS Ensemble, a group known for its large musical instruments, combines the creative forces of architecture, sculpture, music, dance and visual arts. The American ensemble has been dubbed the "music magicians".

7:15 pm, Oct 22
Shanghai Grand Theatre, 300 Renmin Avenue
021-6386-8686
100-580 yuan

Pantomime from Prague

The Czech Republic's Lazne Touen Theater will perform at two theaters in Shanghai this month. The show is made up of four short plays and has already been taken to several international festivals since its premier in 2008.

7:30 pm, Oct 26-27, Shanghai Theater Academy, 670 Huashan Road
7:30 pm, Oct 28-29, Shanghai City Theater, 4889 Dushi Road, Minhang
021-6217-2426
80-280 yuan

Charity concert

A charity rock concert organized by the Shanghai World Foreign Language Middle School will take place on Oct 24 featuring rock bands from local middle schools. The concert is aimed at raising money for two primary schools in the Dabie Mountain area in Anhui province so they can improve their teaching facilities.

5:30 pm, Oct 24
Xuhui Youth Center, No 20, Lane 18 Gao'an Road
138-1817-8373

EXHIBITIONS

Classics with Metaphor

Wang Changxue elaborates on traditional Chinese symbols in his latest set of oil paintings, for example, by juxtaposing images from two ancient Chinese paintings to produce an unexpected modern feeling.

Opening: 3 pm, Oct 16
Daily 10 am-6 pm, until Oct 31
Caves Art Center, 1F, 32 Songyuan Road
021-6278-2699

Wang Xiaohui and Mini Cooper

Wang Xiaohui began collecting drawings and designs for the popular Mini Cooper from aspiring young artists months ago. Now she brings the fruits of these efforts together in her *Dream Project* inside a 2,000-square-meter exhibition hall. The photographer and architect has integrated her students' work and ideas into her latest multi-media installations. A real Mini Cooper is displayed, with its surface covered by one of Wang's drawings.

Shanghai Urban Sculpture Center, 570 Huaihai Road W
021-6597-7758

Art from Shandong

Shandong showcases its art scene to Shanghai audiences as part of the province's efforts to promote itself at the World Expo. Chinese oil paintings and calligraphy works by artists from Shandong form the bulk of the exhibition.

Until Oct 17
Zhu Qizhan Art Museum, 580 Ouyang Road
137-9113-2188



Zhu Zheqin (center) will bring Chinese ethnic legacies into a contemporary setting at her Shanghai concert.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Dadawa to sing songs of praise

Singer Zhu Zheqin has been collecting ethnic music and handicrafts to raise awareness of fading Chinese traditions, **Zhang Kun** reports.

Dadawa, the first Chinese singer to gain international acclaim back in the early 1990s, will give a concert at the Shanghai Grand Theatre on Oct 28.

Dadawa is the stage name of Zhu Zheqin. Zhu was named the Chinese ambassador for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

One of her first projects was a campaign to protect and promote ethnic handicrafts and music in China. She spent over four months traveling to ethnic regions in Guizhou, Yunnan, the Inner Mongolian autonomous region, and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, making a visual and audio record of their respective music and crafts along the way.

In her upcoming concert, Zhu will bring the cream of the crop to bear for what is expected to be a wildly eclectic performance.

"My concert will not be a folk art show

or an ethnic music presentation. I will bring the genes of these ethnic legacies into a contemporary setting and, hopefully, into the future," said the singer, songwriter and music producer.

"We've only had a few recitals by female singers since the theater opened 13 years ago," said Qian Shijin, artistic director of Shanghai Grand Theatre. "Zhu Zheqin is one of the privileged few to meet our artistic criteria."

Zhu said it was natural for Chinese to initially mimic Western artistic trends and study their theories.

"But now we've grown up and it's time for us to start building the 'created in China' brand, rather than the 'made in China' brand," she said at a recent press conference.

Zhu will start with two concerts in Hong Kong on Oct 15 and 16, and a show at the National Grand Theatre in Beijing on Oct 20. After performing in Shanghai on Oct 28, she will perform at the Hangzhou

Grand Theatre on Nov 3.

Zhu was born in Guangzhou and studied music in Shanghai in the early 1990s.

She published her first album, *The Yellow Child*, in 1992 in collaboration with music professor He Xuntian. She followed this with *Sister Drum* in 1995, which was inspired by the music, religious and artistic legacy of Tibet.

Sister Drum brought Zhu considerable international recognition. She became the first contemporary Chinese musician to have her music released worldwide, and she received an Asian MTV award for her contribution to Asian music.

Her project with the UNDP aims to find successors to continue traditional ethnic crafts. When the crafts make a profit, 10 percent of the proceeds are reinvested into promoting the craft. Ten percent of the box office receipts from Zhu's concert will also be donated to the same cause.

IF YOU GO

7:15 pm, Oct 28
Shanghai Grand Theatre, 300 Renmin Avenue
Tel: 021-6359-8032
Tickets: 280-1,880 yuan