



Jessie J, a singer from Britain, now has a strong fan base in China.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

R.O.S.E. BLOOMS IN CHINA

British pop diva and star of the *Singer* reality show, Jessie J is preparing to embark on her 12-stop concert tour all across the nation, **Zhang Kun** and **Chen Nan** report.

Just two months after being crowned champion of Hunan TV's reality show, *Singer*, and hot on the heels of her first studio release in four years, British pop star Jessie J is all set to embark on a 12-city Chinese tour.

Running from August to September, the tour will see her deliver performances in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

The 30-year-old singer-songwriter was the first foreign artist to win the annual reality show, which sees established singers' performances ranked and rated each week by audiences and judges until a winner is decided. The show is one of China's most popular.

"To be honest, I was the first international person ever to be asked," Jessie J told China Daily in an exclusive interview shortly after winning the competition.

"Everything happened so fast: the interviews, the meetings, the photo shoots, the rehearsals," she recalled. "All of a sudden there was the finale, and it was me, Huahua (nickname of Chinese singer Hua Chenyu), Wang Feng and Tengri."

Until then, she explained, she never expected to win because "from what I've been told, the audiences haven't experienced Western music that closely for such a long time".

Obviously Chinese audiences didn't — like she worried — see her

as someone "with big hair, singing songs that no one had ever heard".

During the contest, she performed classic hits by Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Prince. Music critics in China praised her singing as a "textbook interpretation" and "impeccable", while Chinese fans created jokes about her "teaching others to sing". Since appearing on the show, her Sina Weibo social media account has attracted 580,000 followers.

Jessie J toured China in 2014, and in the past few years has performed a series of gala shows and special events, but it was *Singer* that kept her in China the longest — three-and-a-half months in total.

"It really would be a waste of hard work — for myself and my team — if we didn't continue to be here," she said. "I feel like this is just the tip of the iceberg."

"I love being here. I love being around a new energy, a new culture and a completely different way of life to anything that I have ever seen before."

There are 1.4 billion people in China, and she was glad to learn that a great many Chinese viewers were said to have watched the show. The sheer amount of people, and just how much impact China has on the rest of the world, has brought "a whole new understanding of the world" to the star.

It was hard being up against some of the biggest singers in Chi-

If you go

Jessie J's concerts will include: Aug 30, Optical Valley International Tennis Center in Wuhan; Sept 1, Zhengzhou International Convention & Exhibition Center; Sept 3, Cadillac Arena in Beijing; Sept 5, Wuliangye Chengdu Performing Arts Center; Sept 7, Hunan International Convention & Exhibition Center in Changsha; Sept 9, Wuxi Sports Center Gymnasium; Sept 12, Shenzhen Bay Sports Center Arena; Sept 16, Tianjin Gymnasium, and Sept 18, Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai. 380-1,280 yuan (\$56-191). Ticketing hotline: 1010-3721

na, she says, but once she won it, it felt like the whole country was showing their appreciation and respect — and even welcoming for — international artists.

"We have so much hope now. ... Chinese music can be heard by the rest of the world, and vice versa."

Jessie J built great relationships with her fellow contestants on *Singer*, but she didn't reveal whether any of them will be a guest performer at her concerts in China. She did promise to include

some of the songs that she sang during the show in her performances, though.

"In my head, every time I am on the stage, I sing it like a proper performance. I care about the beginning, the middle and the end. I want to sing one song after another. ... I can't wait."

Originally named Jessica Ellen Cornish, Jessie J rose to prominence in 2011 with songs such as *Do It Like a Dude* and *Price Tag*. In 2012 Jessie J performed at Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Concert, as well as the closing ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Jessie J's music style is a mixture of soulful vocals with contemporary R&B, pop and hip-hop beats. Aside from winning various awards for her music in the United Kingdom, she has served as a coach and mentor on the TV shows *The Voice UK* and *The Voice Australia*.

The announcement of Jessie J's concert tour closely follows the release of her fourth studio album, helmed by American record producer, songwriter and two-time Grammy nominee DJ Camper.

Entitled *R.O.S.E.*, the album was released via an epic four-part rollout: *R.O.S.E. (Realizations)* came out on May 22, *R.O.S.E. (Obsessions)* on May 23, *R.O.S.E. (Sex)* on May 24, and *R.O.S.E.*

(*Empowerment*) on May 25.

Jessie J wrote the entire album herself, making this her most personal statement ever.

"It's crazy that it's been four years since I released new music," Jessie J says about the new album. "I have done so much growing in the last few years. You can hear it in the music; the songs on *R.O.S.E.* are simply me singing my diary in a melody. I am so grateful and happy that anyone who has been waiting for this record in full will finally have it."

The title of the album, as the singer-songwriter says, is an acronym for realizations, obsessions, sex and empowerment — all topics that will be explored in song. But the meaning behind that title goes even deeper.

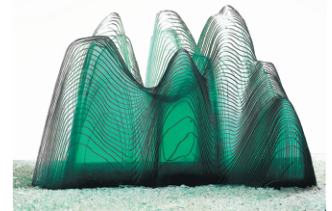
"It didn't come to me straight away. The more I started writing, the more I kept repeating the words, and then one day I realized those words spelled ROSE. My mum's name is Rose. They have always been my favorite flower, so beautiful but when handled badly, they can fall apart, so delicate but so very strong. I just started seeing roses everywhere; it was so weird but I knew it was for a reason."

"I was definitely paying attention to a deeper and higher energy," she concluded.

Contact the writers through chennan@chinadaily.com.cn

Playlist

ART Unique landscapes



Artists Wang Du and An Xiaotong present their interpretation of Chinese landscape paintings at Beijing's Tang Contemporary Art gallery.

The exhibition, entitled *Paysage*, the French word for "landscape", features Wang's glass works of mountains based on three classic ancient Chinese landscape paintings, including Wang Ximeng's *One Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains*; and a landscape scroll by An that is about 60 meters long.

While Wang's glass works are crystal green, the simple patterns of An's paintings are more like black and white photos. The show runs through Aug 23.

Painting after painting

What is an image in a painting? A show at the Guangdong Museum of Art in Guangzhou featuring four accomplished mid-career German painters tries to offer an answer.



Just like the show's name, *Painting After Painting After Painting After: Image-making in Contemporary Germany*, it introduces state-of-the-art developments in German post-painting scene to Chinese audiences, discussing the relationship between color and space. Franz Ackermann, Benjamin Appel, Thomas Scheibitz and Katja Strunz demonstrate how painting can survive in a world dominated by new media.

The show runs through Aug 14 as part of a series featuring art from overseas.

Art for children



The 4th iStart Children's Art Festival at the A4 Art Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan province, will turn the museum into a temporary "sanatorium" following their adaptation by artists, architects and educators.

Artists will each become a game maker, in charge of a room to share their childhood secrets with visitors as a form of psychological therapy.

A parallel exhibition, *Little Bang*, will invite 1,000 children, from 2 to 14, to plan the project with the artists.

A diverse range of art forms including paintings, animations, designs, performances, photos and installations made by children will be presented at the museum, giving audiences an insight into a child's world. The show will run from Aug 18 to Oct 13.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DENG ZHANGYU

Four new Pokemon games on the way

Nintendo, The Pokemon Company, Game Freak and Niantic have new Pokemon experiences coming to mobile devices and the Nintendo Switch system. One of them, *Pokemon Quest*, is available now for free on Switch and is coming soon to iOS and Android devices.

In *Pokemon Quest*, gamers can venture out on expeditions across

Tumblecube Island in search of loot. Players can modify their Pokemon buddies with discovered Power Stones to make their expeditions more beneficial. This game introduces a new cube-shaped art style that's unlike any previous Pokemon title.

Pokemon: Let's Go, Pikachu! and *Pokemon: Let's Go, Eevee!* is scheduled to be launched on Nin-

tendo Switch in mid-November. Taking place in the diverse and vibrant Kanto region, the games let players partner up with either Pikachu or Eevee and embark on an adventure where they will catch and battle Pokemon, meet other Trainers and discover the region of Kanto.

There's also a new way to play these games on Switch through

the Poke Ball Plus. This controller was specially designed to enhance the gameplay experience for aspiring Pokemon Trainers by replicating the look and feel of an actual Poke Ball. Alongside motion controls, Poke Ball Plus also lights up with a variety of colors, vibrates and plays sounds. The games feature cooperative play on a single system, too.

Nintendo is connecting its Switch and mobile Pokemon experiences in a number of ways.

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<p>The School of Engineering and Physics (SEP) offers two four-year degree programmes fully accredited by Engineering New Zealand in the framework of the Washington Accord. This guarantees that SEP engineering programmes consist of studies in engineering leading to a bachelor's degree that fulfills the academic requirement and standards of the Engineering New Zealand and the signatory parties of the Washington Accord (New Zealand, Australia, the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, India, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK, and United States).</p>	<p>The School of Computing, Information & Mathematical Sciences (SCIMS) offers two professional degree programmes, which are provisionally accredited by the Australian Computer Society (ACS). Graduates of these programmes will be eligible to become members of the Australian Computer Society and be granted the Certified Technologist (CT) post nominal. The programme learning outcomes ensure that the graduates of these programmes are well equipped with ICT skills required to compete with the graduates of the similar programmes offered by other institutions worldwide.</p>

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