

Getting a Handle on Water Music

Zhujiajiao splashes onto the world music map

October's Golden Week holiday brings with it the first annual Zhujiajiao World Music Festival. Coinciding with the water village's tourism festival, the music event will feature performers from across the world. Headlining the event will be The Shin from Georgia, Vietnamese French performers, Nguyen Le and Huong Thanh, Saharadja, an ethnic fusion band from Indonesia and the Aseana Percussion Unit from Malaysia. In total, 15 bands will play at venues throughout the historic water village. Locally-based American jazz pianist Steve Sweeting will also perform along with a number of traditional Chinese groups.

Peter Lee, the festival's organizer, says that, "While China has become much richer financially, [it] is still spiritually and culturally undernourished and the festival can do a lot to educate and enrich the Chinese people." For this reason, the performances will be free, excluding the ¥10 entry fee to Zhujiajiao and the VIP concerts on September 29 and 30.

The music festival is the first major event held by the new World Music Center set to

open officially on September 8. Situated in the Wang Chang Memorial Building, the center consists of two traditionally styled buildings that also includes a garden and café where visitors can relax and experience the center. The festival's opening and closing ceremonies, panel discussions and workshops will be held at the center.

The center aims to to preserve traditional Chinese music, which is in danger of disappearing. Canadian musician Jeremy Moyer has played the erhu for over 10 years

and is in charge of the center's recording studio. "Lots of people want to preserve traditional music, but how?" he asks. "I hope that the studio will allow us to record some of the sounds before they are lost with the older generations."

The center itself has a history of traditional music, which they hope to preserve by holding concerts beginning next spring for both local and international performers. The center will also allow local music groups to hold casual concerts there, returning the garden to its traditional use and hopefully becoming a leading music venue in China.

—Mark Andrews

THE DETAILS

Zhujiajiao World Music Center
Sept. 29-Oct. 3
www.zjwwmf.com



Class is in session at the new World Music Center

Courtesy of Community Center Shanghai



The Community Center Shanghai provides services and events for the expat community.

Events

Learn more about the city at Shanghai 1-2-3 and the Expat Show and then pick up your next great read on your way to the Brits Abroad Charity Quiz.

Saturday, Sept. 15

Shanghai BookCrossers

Figaro Coffee > Xingye Lu
Bring books you want to swap and take away your next great read. Most of the books are in English and include novels, thrillers, chick-lit, non-fiction, travel books, classics, etc. No registration necessary, joining in is fun and free. 2pm, info@figarocoffee.com

Sunday, Sept. 16

Welcome Back Barbecue

Slice
This venue is welcoming back those returning to Shanghai after the summer holidays by hosting a barbecue at their Jinqiao and Qintpu locations. The event will include games for the kiddos and a market of fresh organic items and gourmet Slice products. Contact for more details. events@slice-deli.com

Animal Adoption Days

O'Malley's Irish Pub
Our furry friends are often in need of a helping hand in this big metropolis. Shanghai's private cat and dog rescue and adoption organization is holding their bi-weekly adoption day. If you can't adopt permanently, foster parenting is always a option. 12pm, 139-1855-2425, www.scaashanghai.org

Tuesday, Sept. 18

FC Club Media Industry Night

City Diner
Calling all media professionals, whether in front or behind the scenes, this night is for you. Come out, network, make connections, make friends and find new opportunities. Media consumers are welcome as well. ¥50 if register before 4pm on Sept. 18, ¥80 at the door includes lucky draw, one drink and finger food. 7:30pm, event@fcclub.com, www.fcclub.com

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 26

Shanghai 1-2-3 Orientation for Newcomers

Community Center Shanghai
Designed for Shanghai newcomers, this event, arranged by the Community Center Shanghai, answers the questions that many expats face upon their arrival. A panel of experts will outline the ABCs and one-two-three's about living in Shanghai. An activity fair will also showcase organizations that serve the expat community. The event will be held at the center's Jinxiu Dong Lu location on Sept. 12 and at Embassy Court, 3/F, 1498 Huaihai Lu, on Sept. 26. 7pm, 5030-3313, www.communitycenter.cn

Friday Sept. 21-23

Expat Show Shanghai

Shanghai Exhibition Center
This exhibition of expat-oriented service providers, clubs and organizations, organized by the World Events Agency, is a don't-miss, both