



Yut Quartet

Xiqu (Chinese Opera) meets Italian Jazz

Heidi Li:
Manuel Magrini:
Massimiliano Rolff:
Antonio Fusco:

Voice + Composition
Piano
Double bass
Drums

Depending on its Chinese ideograms, 粵 or 越, “*Yut*” (Romanized based on Cantonese pronunciation) can mean “Cantonese” or “cross,” respectively. Drawing on her unique background—a blend of Chinese heritage and Italian education—Heidi Li presents a captivating fusion of musical genres. The repertoire of Yut Quartet features original compositions inspired by both Chinese traditional music and Italian music, as well as arrangements that intricately blend Italian and Chinese melodies. This creates a rich musical dialogue between the two cultures, harmonizing Eastern and Western traditions.

Xiqu (Chinese opera) is a traditional form of Chinese theatrical performance that integrates singing, acting, dialogue, and acrobatics. *Yuequ* (Cantonese Opera) is one of the most widely performed regional branch of *xiqu* and has been recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2009. Its dynamic rhythms and expressive vocal techniques naturally align with the improvisational and emotive qualities of jazz, particularly Italian jazz, which is renowned for its emphasis on expressive melodies. This shared focus on melodic richness reveals a profound compatibility between the two genres. Furthermore, both jazz and Cantonese opera celebrate individual artistic interpretation and incorporate elements of improvisation, deepening their shared creative foundation. Heidi’s work captures this synergy, skillfully integrating the melodic and structural intricacies of *Yuequ* with jazz’s free-spirited ethos.

Heidi’s artistic journey is rooted in her Hong Kong upbringing, where she developed a deep connection to *Yuequ* under her parents’ guidance. Her passion for jazz emerged during her time in Italy, culminating in her thesis at Siena Jazz University, titled “*Xiqu* Meets Jazz: The Possibilities of Incorporating Musical Structures and Expressions of Cantonese Opera in Jazz,” which earned her full marks of 110/110 at graduation. This project embodies her commitment to bridging her Chinese heritage with her Western education.

Heidi Li is a Hong Kong born multicultural and multilingual Jazz vocalist, composer and teacher. Under her parents' guidance, Heidi grew up performing *Yuequ* (Cantonese Opera) and won a *yuequ* singing competition at 11 years old on a local Hong Kong TV channel.

Heidi has lived abroad in Canada, the UK and France before settling in Italy, where she developed the passion for Jazz and improvisation. She graduated from Siena Jazz University with full marks of 110, exploring the integration of *Yuequ* elements in Jazz composition and performance for her thesis and recital.

In 2016, Heidi released her debut EP "Third Culture Kid," featuring six original compositions in English, Italian, and Cantonese, reflecting her multicultural upbringing. Her "Heidi Sings Italian Dialects" project has earned her recognition from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly with her performance at the 2016 States General of the Italian Language in the World in Florence. In 2022, with support from the Italian Cultural Institute Hong Kong & Macau, her second album was published.

In recent years, Heidi continues to perform, produce, and teach in Europe and Asia at events such as the Italian National Day celebration (HK), HangZhou Jazz On the Lake Festival (CN), Salento Film Festival (IT), and the Freespace Jazz Festival (HK) etc. Embracing a new challenge in 2023, Heidi stepped into the world of movie soundtracks as the composer for Nabin Subba's feature film "A Road to a Village" (World Premiered at TIFF 2023), starring celebrated Nepali actor Dayahang Rai.



Heidi Li - Voice

A photograph of Manuel Magrini, a man with dark hair, a beard, and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is seated at a piano, looking down at the keys. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

Manuel Magrini - Piano

Manuel Magrini, born in 1990, won the 2017 Lelio Luttazzi Prize at the prestigious jazz club Blue Note Milano. He developed an interest in jazz music at a young age and started learning the craft from maestro Ramberto Ciammarughi. He has collaborated with numerous groups, performing across Europe, Asia, Middle East and America.

Since 2014, he has been part of the National Orchestra of Young Jazz Talents organized by the Teatro Puccini in Florence, Siena Jazz, and Music Pool. This orchestra is comprised of the best jazz department students from all the Conservatories in Italy, with whom he has performed on significant stages like the Teatro Piccolo Strehler in Milan and the Obi Hall in Florence. In the same year, Manuel received a scholarship at the Fara Music Festival to study at the Collective School of Music in New York.

In 2016, his first solo piano CD titled "Unexpected" was released under the Encore Jazz label by Roberto Lioli. Manuel presented the album in various locations, including Domus Art Centro Cultura in Naples, the Izmir European Jazz Festival in Smyrna, Teatro la Fenice in Venice, Sala Vanni in Florence, Casa del Jazz in Rome, Folk Club in Turin, and Piazza Sheraton in Milan.

Massimiliano Rolff's music, founded on a deep knowledge of the jazz tradition combined with a personal taste for composition, has become in recent years a point of reference for many lovers of jazz music in Italy and in Europe.

As a freelance bassist in recent years he has played in the most renowned jazz clubs, festivals, theaters, TV shows, Embassies and Italian Cultural Institutes in Italy, Holland, France, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Portugal, Hungary, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Argentina, Uruguay, China, Japan, Hong Kong and USA with Steve Grossman, Scott Hamilton, Eliot Zigmund, Perico Sambeat, Jesse Davis, Dave Schnitter, Federico Britos, Phil Woods, Peter King, Garrison Fewell, Herb Geller, Rachel Gould, Eric Legnini, Danny Grissett, Sangoma Everett, Andrea Dulbecco, Andy Gravish, Dado Moroni, Flavio Boltro, Paolo Damiani, Gabriele Mirabassi, Luca Begonia, Marco Tamburini, Gianpaolo Casati, Carlo Atti, Andrea Pozza, François Chassagnite, Claudio Chiara, Luca Santaniello, Karen Edwards, Johannes Faber, Emanuele Cisi, Enzo Zirilli, Jasper van't Hof, Alessio Menconi and many other fantastic musicians.

Since 2006 he has released 8 albums as a leader, composer and arranger [Unit Five, 2006 - Naked, 2009 - More music, 2012 - Scream! 2016 - Italian Life in contemporary time, 2016 - Cubiculum, 2017 - Home Feeling, 2018 - Gershwin on Air, 2021] receiving international awards, acknowledgments and critical reviews. He has participated in the recording of dozens of albums as a sideman. In 2008 he founded the Count Basie Jazz Club in Genoa, and since 2011 he has taught at the Conservatories of Messina, La Spezia, Monopoli and Palermo. He currently holds the chair of Jazz Bass at the Piacenza Jazz Conservatory.



Antonio Fusco - Drums



Italian drummer, composer, and educator Antonio Fusco has created a name for himself across the globe as a versatile, abundantly creative, and mindful musical presence in the jazz scenes throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa.

His deep and nuanced knowledge and artistry on the drums has led him to perform in many musical spheres, including jazz, rock, funk, pop, blues, and avant-garde styles. Antonio Fusco has recorded over 39 albums as a side-man, and six albums as leader and co-leader.

His most recent releases as a bandleader include his quintet album “Peaceful Soul” (2022) and his trio album “Sete” (2023). Steeped in the jazz and classical traditions of Asian, Afro-American, and European music, his masterful compositions combine complex harmony and rhythm with wistful melodies to create an elevated and enjoyable experience for even the newest and oldest of jazz listeners.

Fusco is currently performing his music and collaborating with esteemed artists throughout Massimiliano Rolff Trio Gershwin On Air, Tino Tracanna Plamede Q, while also sharing his love for jazz drumming and education on the Asian based website JazzWorld.

RECENT CONCERTS

- 2024.11.02 Consulate General of Italy in Canton, Guangzhou, China
- 2024.11.01 Golden Jazz, Zhuhai, China
- 2024.10.31 Penny Black Jazz Club, Shenzhen, China
- 2024.10.30 Yut Quartet Masterclass, Open House, Hong Kong
- 2024.10.29 90th Anniversary of Dante Alighieri Society, The Peninsula, Hong Kong
- 2024.10.28 Wong Cheung Lo Hui Yuet Hall, City University, Hong Kong
- 2024.10.28 Leung Fong Oi Wan Art Gallery, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- 2024.10.26 Freespace Jazz Festival, West Kowloon Cultural District Hong Kong
- 2024.09.13 Festival Mutamenti, Teatro della Rosa, Pontremoli
- 2024.02.06 Chinese New Year Reception, Excelsior Gallia Milan, organized by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office Brussels

muta
menti

HEIDI LI YUT QUARTET



venerdì
13
settembre

Pontremoli, Teatro della Rosa, ore 21.30

East meets west

Ingresso ad offerta libera. È consigliato prenotare.









From the left: Ms. Alice Fratarcangeli (Director of Italian Cultural Institute HK), Prof. Li Wen Jung (Senior Management of City University), Massimiliano Rolff (Bass), Heidi Li (Voice), Antonio Fusco (Drums), Manuel Magrini (Piano), Mr. Carmelo Ficarra (Consulate General of Italy in HK), Ms. Antonietta Cornacchia (Consulate of Italy in Hong Kong), Ms Candy Chouk (Director of Cultural Exchange Oasis, City University)





Performing arts in Hong Kong Lifestyle / Arts & Culture

Review | Herbie Hancock as incredible as ever at Hong Kong's Freespace Jazz Fest 2024

Jazz legend Herbie Hancock showed he's still got it at the Freespace Jazz Fest 2024, with other stand-out acts including Ted Lo and Heidi Li

Reading Time: 3 minutes



Rob Garratt

Published: 5:45pm, 30 Oct 2024 | Updated: 10:10am, 31 Oct 2024

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On the quieter side, Heidi Li stunned with both her ethereal vocal delivery and her ability to roll Chinese and Italian opera influences into the jazz tradition. Meanwhile, M+ hosted a new series of delicate chamber-style duos and trios, including an intuitive pairing of shimmery guitarists Michael Chan and Samson Lui, and vocalist Rachel Sung's promising partnership with guitar hotshot Teriver Cheung.



People watch one of the acts at the Harbourside Lawn West at Freespace Jazz Fest 2024. Photo: Courtesy of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Sadly, the festival did not go off without

https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/article/3284462/herbie-hancock-incredible-ever-hong-kongs-freespace-jazz-festival-2024?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article



<https://www.rainews.it/notiziari/tg1/video/2024/11/Tg1-ore-0800-del-01112024-e18094a3-8e0f-4c1a-aeeb-666823b577c9.html>

YUT QUARTET 11.1

广东粤曲与意大利爵士的相遇

ANTONIO FUSCO

MASSIMILIANO ROLFF

HEIDI LI

周五 20:30

预定 RMB 98/位

现场 RMB 128/位

TEL:180 2306 5738 同步微信 (Wechat)

地址: 珠海市北山南路68号 金爵士艺术中心 Add: Golden Jazz Art Center, 68 south Beishan, Zhuhai

广东粤曲与意大利爵士的相遇

透过不同文化背景音乐之间的互动与即兴演奏
传统中国元素将与爵士乐精神精妙结合
呈现东西方音乐的和谐交融之美

10.31

周四 21:30-Midnight

半岛爵士俱乐部
PENNY BLACK JAZZ CLUB

深圳市福田区文锦街 华侨城创意文化园北座A座1314号
No.1314, Block A5, North District OCT LOFT, Wanchang St

【钢琴/打击乐】
Massimiliano Roloff Doublebass
李悦怡 鼓手
Antonio Fusco 爵士鼓
Manuel Magrini 爵士鼓手

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Connecting to the World Performance

Yut Quartet meets Italian Jazz

Cantonese Opera

28 Oct Mon 2024 19:30-21:00

Wong Cheung Lo Hui Yuet Hall,
5/F, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building, CityUHK

Performers

Heidi Li | Voice & Composition
Manuel Magrini | Piano
Massimiliano Rolff | Double bass
Antonio Fusco | Drums

Heidi Li, a talented jazz vocalist born in Hong Kong and trained in Italy, is excited to showcase a captivating fusion of musical genres. Apart from original compositions inspired by traditional Chinese music, Heidi will intricately weave Italian music into the repertoire, performing Italian songs with original Chinese lyrics and arranging medleys that harmoniously blend both Italian and Chinese melodies, creating a musical dialogue between the two cultures.

Through the interplay and improvisations of musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds, the show transcends genre boundaries, creating a harmonious fusion of East and West where traditional Chinese influences seamlessly blend with the spirit of jazz.

The unique performance celebrates the power of music to unite cultures and connect the world.

FREE ADMISSION

Please scan the QR code below for registration.
Successful applicants will be notified by email.

Enquiry: 3442 2941 / cxo@cityu.edu.hk

Jazz Music Concert by YUT Quartet

Leung Fong Oi Wan Art Gallery

PIANIST: MANUEL MAGRINI

DRUMMER: ANTONIO FUSCO

BASSIST: MASSIMILIANO ROLFF

SINGER: HEIDI LI

1.5 AES Units

28 OCT 2024 15:30-17:00

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University 香港 Hong Kong

Wong Bing Lai Music & Performing Arts Unit
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HEIDI LI 李愷怡

| Vocalist | Composer | Educator |
Connecting Cultures With Music



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