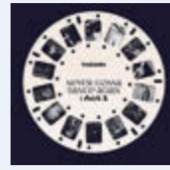


Music Picks

Benson Ang Lifestyle Correspondent recommends



**ELECTRONIC/POP**  
**NEVER GONNA DANCE AGAIN: ACT 1**  
Taemin  
★★★★☆

If the title were true, it would be such a pity. South Korean singer Taemin, the main dancer of boy group Shinee, has outdone himself in his latest album, especially in the music videos.

A sense of dangerous seduction pervades the opening track Criminal as he sings: "I try to get away from

you/But being brainwashed, all I can do is nod." His fierce moves on the music video (bit.ly/30u9J7T) convey the drama and tension of the lyrics.

Black Rose, with a motif of a dark flower that blooms in one's dreams, continues this intoxicating mystique and it features several verses by South Korean rapper Kid Milli.

Taemin slows it down on the retro-style R&B song Nemo and pop ballad Clockwork, letting his voice carry the emotions.

With its varied, layered offerings, the 30-minute album flew by.



**POP**  
**DEAR ALL**  
Wan Fang  
★★★★☆

Loss and acceptance are key themes in the latest studio album by Taiwanese singer Wan Fang.

One of its well-crafted numbers is A Vacant Seat, which is about parting with someone and coming to terms with it. The song is evocative and sincere, and the music video (bit.ly/34mD4IU) features poignant slow-motion scenes of merriment.

The opening track Time Ladder, however, is a strange beast. The several tonal changes give it a disjointed feel and the many ideas – such as likening time to both a spiral ladder and an elevator – leave it in a bit of a jumble.

Wan Fang is on much firmer footing on the title track, an ode to female friendship. The song's gentle melody and reflective lyrics about shared laughs and joyful memories convey a tenderness which lingers after the final note.

PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO, POURQUOI PAS MUSIC, POURQUOI PAS MUSIC/FACEBOOK, SHINNEE/FACEBOOK, SM ENTERTAINMENT, STEVEN MA/FACEBOOK



**STEVEN MA 27TH ANNIVERSARY ONLINE CONCERT AND MAN 40 CEO SHARING SESSION**

On Sept 27, Hong Kong actor-singer Steven Ma held an online concert, broadcast on Facebook to celebrate his 27 years in show business. He is known for his roles in dramas such as Where The Legend Begins (2002) and Perish In The Name Of Love (2003).

During the concert, which lasted more than 4½ hours, Ma sang his Cantonese hits such as You Are My Day And Night and Three Minutes Seven Seconds, as well as covers of songs, such as Andy Lau's If One Day. Watch it at bit.ly/3jwexkA



Radio Singer contest winner Xiao Hua (second from right) won a \$1,500 cash prize and sponsored products and shopping vouchers. She is flanked by (from left) UFM100.3 producer-presenter Low Wei Loong, and senior producer-presenters Lee Xin Ying and Chang Cheng Yao.

**RADIO SINGER 2020 THE FINALE**

At the finals of this year's Radio Singer contest organised by SPH Radio's UFM100.3 on Sept 24, 11 finalists – all wearing boxes over their heads – belted out a range of songs, from evergreen numbers such as Na Ying's Just Like A Dream to

newer hits such as Grady Guan's Miss You Tonight.

The winner, who went by the stage name Xiao Hua, sang Crowd Lu's Your Name Engraved Herein and chose not to reveal her identity. Watch the finale at bit.ly/3jxDFHS

GIGS

**#FightLyme With Avril**

Canadian singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne had a life-threatening battle with Lyme disease, which is transmitted through infected ticks, and was bedridden for months. She will perform her hits such as Sk8ter Boi and Complicated as well as songs from last year's Head Above Water album at a live-stream concert to raise awareness of and funds for those affected by the illness. All proceeds will go to The Avril Lavigne Foundation and Global Lyme Alliance. **WHEN:** Oct 24, 8am **ADMISSION:** US\$25 (\$34), US\$60 (VIP Merchandise Bundle), US\$149 (VIP Soundcheck Pass) **INFO:** avrillavigne.com

**Tim De Cotta**

Groove to 1970s funk in this rhythmic set with Singaporean vocalist, bassist, songwriter and producer Tim De Cotta. The concert will be live-streamed from the Esplanade. Part of Esplanade's free performances this month. **WHERE:** Esplanade Offstage **WHEN:** Wed, 8pm **INFO:** str.sg/J2gP

**Cabin Fever**

SMU Samba Masala, Singapore

Management University's Afro-Brazilian percussion group, have rearranged three familiar pop anthems to the theme of isolation, reflection and hope. They used household items, on top of their usual instruments, to produce percussive sounds. Part of A-PART, SMU Arts Festival 2020. **WHERE:** www.facebook.com/SMUARTSFEST **WHEN:** Till Oct 30 **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** smu.sg/artsfest

**Glass Animals – Live In The Internet**

English psychedelic pop band Glass Animals will launch their new album Dreamland and perform songs from it live. The gig will also feature special guests, the group's typical striking set design and visual work as well as fan interaction. **WHEN:** Oct 16, 8 - 9am **ADMISSION:** US\$17 or US\$32 (includes poster) **INFO:** str.sg/J2gs

**CHARITY**

**Walk For Our Children 2020**

The annual fund-raising event of the Children's Society goes virtual this year. Participants should clock a minimum of 5,000 steps a day, and it

can be done alone or with family and friends anywhere and any time. Funds raised will support services and programmes for children, youth and families in need. **WHEN:** Till Nov 30 **ADMISSION:** \$25 (adult), \$10 (children below 12 years old), \$60 (family combo: two adults & two children) or \$85 (friends combo: four adults) **INFO:** str.sg/J2ge

**TALKS**

**A Live Stream With Arsene Wenger**

In this virtual book launch and talk, renowned French football manager Arsene Wenger will open up about his life and career, including stories of his 22 years managing English Premier League club Arsenal to multiple league championships and a record number of FA Cups. Organised by The Arts House and Fane Productions, which produces bespoke live events. **WHEN:** Tue, 1.30am **ADMISSION:** \$30 or \$46 (includes book) **INFO:** str.sg/J2gh

**Securing A Job Amid The Pandemic**

In this Facebook Live event, hear from industry experts such as Mr Abdul Samad, vice-president of the NTUC

Central committee, and Ms Rahayu Mohamad, president of PPSIS (Persatuan Pemuda Islam Singapura), a non-profit dedicated to working with women in carrying out their multiple roles in society. They will share insights on finding job opportunities during the pandemic and discuss topics such as staying relevant through lifelong learning, building confidence professionally and securing jobs in a rapidly changing business environment. Organised by M3@Marsiling-Yew Tee and Marsiling Yew Tee GRC. **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8.30 - 9.30pm **INFO:** str.sg/J2g7

**CLASSES**

**#FoodPorn: Boba Bonanza**

Create Instagram-worthy bubble tea-inspired pastries in this five-hour course at SSA Culinary Institute. Participants will make boba pearls, boba milk tea, boba 3D cake and boba tea cupcakes. Open to beginners. **WHERE:** 01-00/04-01, LTC Building A, 10 Arumugam Road MRT: MacPherson **WHEN:** Oct 19, 10am - 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$98 **INFO:** str.sg/J2g8

**Upcycling Glass Bottle Design Lamp**

In this workshop, participants will use

upcycling techniques to light and decorate a glass bottle, transforming it into a bottle lamp. Organised by Terra SG, a social enterprise that runs eco-education programmes, sustainable events and upcycling activities, builds green spaces and manages the Sustainable Singapore Gallery. Part of Singapore Archifest 2020. **WHERE:** Terra SG North Hub, 30A Yishun Central 1 MRT: Yishun **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 1 - 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$60 **INFO:** str.sg/J2gB

**SPORTS**

**Aerial Fitness**

The routine works out your entire body through stabilising the spine, inversions, hand-eye coordination and plenty of core muscle work. Suitable for beginners. Organised by Movement & Sports Medicine Centre, which provides training, well-being and rehabilitation. **WHERE:** Movement & Sports Medicine Centre, 151A Kitchener Road MRT: Farrer Park **WHEN:** Fridays, 7 - 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$31.51 **INFO:** str.sg/J2g2

**7-Minutes Daily Workout**

This online workout series aims to

help you keep fit any time of the day, in the comfort of your home. The videos are recorded at the daily Experience Sports Programmes held at the Singapore Sports Hub. The workouts range from cardio and mind-body to strength, endurance and conditioning. **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.the-elx.com/sessions/sgsportshub

**FESTIVALS**

**Singapore Mental Health Film Festival**

The festival is held in conjunction with World Mental Health Day, which is tomorrow. Held virtually this year, it aims to use film as a catalyst to advocate and promote conversations about mental health. Five short films on how the pandemic has affected four different groups here – the elderly, migrant workers, LGBTQ+ community and sex workers – will be streamed. A panel discussion will follow after each screening. **WHERE:** Singapore Mental Health Film Festival's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/singaporementalhealthfilmfestival) **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 12.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** smhf.com/events