

As a prelude to the *GetItLouder07* design/art/sound festival (a biennale centered in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou), Chinese sound-artist and writer Yan Jun paid a visit to his hometown of Lanzhou. The idea was to present a performance with his long-time friend Zhou Jin, a musician active in the budding Noise Association of Lanzhou. By chance, another important Chinese experimental musician, Wang Fan, happened to be there at the same time, so it was these three who performed together on the evening of March 10th, 2007.



Lanzhou doesn't have much of a contemporary or experimental scene. While large, it's a mostly industrial city removed from the more active centers like Beijing and Shanghai. So, the performance was intimate; rather than a traditional venue, the performance space was a small office normally used by Yan Jun's friend Zheng's import business. The audience was small, mostly young, but eager for a new listening experience. The experimental-music and sound-art scene is still very new in China; but in the small groups of devotees, the excitement and sense of discovery is high.



For the performance Zhou Jin played mixing board (eliciting sounds from the board itself, and a few cables attached to it); Yan Jun played tuning forks, fed through a series of effect boxes; Wang Fan played his laptop computer.



The improvisation unfolds in a very sensitive and connected way. Each artist makes their own contribution felt, while paying close attention to the overall sound-world. There's an almost organic sense of passing through a series of “landscapes”, cool and dark to bright and vibrating. There's a meditative, focused restraint in the three artists' interaction.



ZHOU Jin started learning classical guitar in 1987, and was in the thrash metal band Can Xiang from 1993 to 1996. He also played with Wang Fan in Beijing and started doing original recording for Wang Fan's early works from 1997. Zhou played in the experimental rock band Disband and lived in Beijing from 1998 to 2000, performing between the Lanzhou and Beijing constantly; at the same time played in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenyang as a member of Wang Fan's band. Zhou formed Noise Association of Lanzhou in 2001, in the same year he showed up at the Ninth-Floor Vision Art Exhibition in Zhengzhou, playing improvisational music for calligrapher Zhu Ming's large-scale calligraphy performance Wen Zi Ji, and created the dark music album Door of Dark with Liu Jian. He played at the Midi Festival in 2002.

Together with Bie Feng he released five albums crossing styles from experimental, noise, low-fi, improvisation to folk. In 2005 he participated in the Dashanzi International Art Festival, and together with Bie Feng and Shizi collaborated on the album Fang Si with the Japanese computer musician Marqido.



YAN Jun is a sound artist and improviser, a well-known music critic, a poet and driving force of China's indie music and sub-culture scene for years. Yan was born in Lanzhou in 1973, but now lives and works in Beijing. He holds B.A. degree in Chinese Language & Literature.

Yan runs the new music labels Sub Jam and KwanYin Records, as well as Waterland Kwanyin, a weekly event of experimental / improv music and sound art. he found the yearly outdoor festival mini midi as experimental music/sound stage of MIDI Festival in 2005. He also curates music and sound projects for Dashanzi Internatioanl Art Festival since 2004, As well as GetItLouder07.

Yan has performed in Paris (Nuit Blanche), Amsterdam, Berlin (Transmediale), Kuala Lumpur (Street Roar), Seoul (Bulgasari), Oslo (Sound of Mu), Brussels (1000 Revolutions Per Second), toured in Taiwan and Mainland China. He has also initiated Tie Guan Yin and Pisces Iscariots, two free-form electro-acoustic improv projects.

As a writer he has published six books on the topic of Chinese new music, and important collections of poetry.

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WANG Fan is a pioneer of china's experimental music scene; sound designer, sonic explorer, noise maker, minimalist/maximalist, multi-genre composer and a talented singer. He was born in Lanzhou in 1970 and relocated to Beijing in 1996, the year he created China's first formal experimental music piece: a mysterious 40 minute lo-fi work. Wang Fan is a self taught, religion-tradition oriented (Buddhism and other oriental religions) and a non-stop musician. He has released 3 masterpieces of Chinese new music:

Sound of Meditation Within The Body (Sub Jam/Origin, 2001)

Infinite Loops (Adopin/Sub Jam, 2003)

Five Primary Elements (KwanYin Records/Adopin, 2006)

Released in 2007 by Steve Layton and NiwoSound in cooperation with Yan Jun, Zhou Jin, and Wang Fan

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