

HONG KONG'S NEW MUSIC WAVE

Think HK music is all ballads and boredom? You'd be wrong. There's a whole raft of exciting talent emerging across the city's scene, in every type of genre imaginable – and to prove it, we've uncovered 23 of the most promising new singers and bands that you need to listen to right now. Your new favourite artist is waiting... By Mark Tjhung and Arthur Tam



AGA

RISING R&B STAR

If you're into: Brandy, Justin Lo

Label: Universal Music

Latest Release: AGA (2013)

Upcoming Release: New single out beginning of June

For more: bit.ly/AGA-FB

Recommending Listening: <<问好>> *Greetings*, bit.ly/TOHK-AGA

Last year, Hong Kong didn't see many new pop talents, and the one fresh shining light to break into the scene was AGA. The 25-year-old Agatha Kong was crowned with the gold award at last year's Commercial Radio 903 music awards and has been creating quite a stir in the scene since she debuted late last year with her eponymous album *AGA*. Her sultry voice, R&B sensibilities and catchy songwriting ability has shot her straight to the top of the Cantopop charts. Her most popular plugs have

been <<问好>> (*Greeting*) and *One Day at a Time*, both fluid R&B ballads accented with a touch of sensuality. AGA's voice glides through the tracks with crisp dulcet tones for a delicate take on heartbreak. Besides her own hits, AGA has written songs for other artists like Fiona Sit's mega-hit *Better Me*, emphasising AGA's knack for writing a commercial hit. Any day now, she releases her new single and, later in the year, expect her sophomore album, which may well solidify her place in our city's pop scene. *AT*



PRUNE DEER

MATH-ROCK UPSTARTS

If you're into: Chochukmo, toe

Label: unsigned

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: none

Recommended listening: *2 Days to Escape*, bit.ly/TOHKPruneDeer

For more: facebook.com/prunedeer

With the relative popularity of post-rock and math-rock within the Hong Kong indie scene, it was only a matter of time before new talent emerged, riding off the back of the success of acts like Chochukmo. One of them is Prune Deer, a young four-piece who are producing a heavy-ish cerebral, complex and occasionally funky rock that nods heavily to Japanese bands like *te'*. A math-rock band by chance – they used to do hard and melodic rock before the leaving of their vocalist and the arrival of new guitarist, HanZ Fanatico – they're now one of the great hopes in the emerging instrumental rock scene. *MT*

LA'BRIDGE

MYSTERIOUS ELECTRONICA

If you're into: Brian Eno, Aphex Twin, Hammock

Label: unsigned

Latest release: *Sit under the Chair* (2012)

Upcoming release: *Shadow of My Sea*

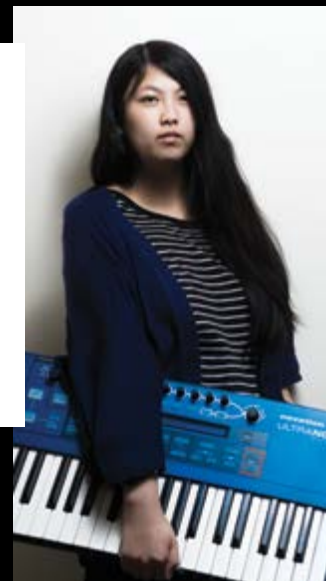
Recommended listening: *Forest Piano II*, bit.ly/LaBridgeForestPianoII

For more: la-bridge.net

Upcoming show: Wed Jun 11, Hidden Agenda

Given the paucity of electronic music in Hong Kong, the beautiful, eerie, atmospheric creations of Cam Huang – aka La'Bridge – are a wonderful breath of fresh air. Formerly a guitarist in a post-rock band in her native Guangzhou, Huang started her solo project after arriving in Hong Kong, crafting tunes that draw on elements of minimalist techno, post-rock and ambient electronica. "I want to show my imagination through music," Huang tells *Time Out*.

Despite being completely sans vocals, La'Bridge's music is often inspired by quite specific social issues, ranging from China's



growing pollution (*Mongolia*) to the acceptance of homosexuality (*Only Flowers Know*). However, Huang is not forcing her commentary down listeners' throats. "What you imagine from my music may not be the same as what I imagine," she says. "I want people to imagine for themselves, and not just what I imagine." Indeed, there's plenty of room for that in the music of La'Bridge. *MT*

MEET...

GDJYB

HK-CENTRIC MATH-FOLK

If you're into: American Football, TTNG

Label: unsigned

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: Debut album, Sep 2014

Recommended listening: *Burn It Down*, bit.ly/TOHKGDJYB

For more: facebook.com/gdjyb

Upcoming show: Street Music Series, Sat Aug 16, HKAPA

For more: la-bridge.net

This three-girl math-folk outfit of Soni Cheng, Soft Liu and Heihe Ng are bringing something genuinely different to the scene, with their quirky musical take on Hong Kong life. Hard at work on their debut album, coming in September, GDJYB tell Mark Tjhung about the message in their music...

So, GDJYB – tell us about the name!

Liu: It stems from the dish gai dan jang yuk bang (a traditional dish made of steamed egg and pork). Our objective is to talk about social issues and the feelings of the city, but in a funny, quirky way. This name takes something traditional and adds something special.

Your math-folk concept is quite distinctive.

Where did that come from?

Liu: We all love folk music but we just thought maybe too many people were already playing it. So one day we were just joking 'ah, let's make math-rock folk'. Then we thought it would be a better way to deliver our message – folk is always trying to describe the social or political issues, but with HK society becoming more complicated, we found that math-rock folk, and the varying tempos, patterns and melodies, matched this message.

How have you gone about fusing the two genres?

Liu: We have done a lot of experimenting. Math-rock is really quite different to folk music, so we were trying to use very folky chords and guitar.

Ng: The tempo and groove is about math-rock.



CALVIN SIT

(From left) Soft Liu, Heihe Ng and Soni Cheng

Cheng: We're trying to do different kinds of song – one with 20 percent math, 80 percent folk, another with just a folk guitar rhythm but with math drums.

Liu: We are still exploring, testing the proportions.

You're also fusing English and Cantonese a bit, too...

Liu: We use Cantonglish and write down the bits and pieces of Hongkongers' daily life. The problems Hong Kong is facing today are very complicated. The languages which can best represent Hong Kong are not

only Cantonese and English, but also Cantonglish. And by using a world language, that is, English, it can take our music to different corners of this continent.

Would you say that all of your songs are very much about some kind of commentary on HK?

Ng: Sometimes, but we are not very obviously talking about the political. For example, we have a song called *Philip the Buster*, which actually stems from a filibuster. We are just trying to twist the language we are using, we just don't want to be too direct.



PASHA

DREAMY POP PAIRING

If you're into: Mojave 3, Beach House, Marissa Nadler

Label: none

Latest release: *Pasha* (2013)

Upcoming release: none

Recommended listening: *Baffling*, bit.ly/TOHKPasha

For more: facebook.com/pashahk

While they've been around for a few years, the dream-pop duo of vocalist Shadow and programmer Nookie only released their debut, self-titled album in autumn last year, with eight tracks swimming with thick textures, misty vocals and an overriding air of beautiful bitter-sweetness, and that draw heavily from the kind of classic dream-pop goodness you would find from the likes of Mojave 3, married with the kind of freaky haunting quality Coco Rosie are known for. Their tracks are mainly in Putonghua, with smatterings of English and German, and float from blip-heavy arrangements – like in *Baffling* – to mysterious, hazily walled liquid creations, such as *Desolate*. A rare Hong Kong dream-pop gem. *MT*

FUZZY ROCK FAVES

The new, hazy shoegaze, post-punk and garagey goodness on the scene...



ANWIYCTI

SPACE ROCK, DARK AND LOUD
If you're into: Spacemen 3, The Jesus and Mary Chain
Label: Imagine Imagine Imagine Records
Latest release: *ANWIYCTI*, released Jun 12
Recommended listening: *Many But One*, bit.ly/TOHK-ANWIYCTI
For more: facebook.com/anwiycti
Upcoming show: Thu Jun 12, Hidden Agenda

Pronounced 'an-wic-ti' and standing for A New World If You Can Take It – a reference to Roswell whistleblower Philip J Corso's alleged close encounter of the third kind – this four-piece are at the forefront of the new noise rock scene. In ANWIYCTI, there are no guitars – just drums, three basses, and impenetrable dams of growling, spacey sound, which bring together elements of psych-rock, shoegaze and post-rock, which all nods to the heady days of 80s alt-rock. *MT*



PONYBOY

SCREAMY, ARTY, POST-HARDCORE
If you're into: Fugazi, At the Drive In
Label: none
Latest release: none
Upcoming release: Debut EP, end of 2014
Recommended listening: *Melody 1*, bit.ly/TOHKPonyboy
For more: facebook.com/ponyboy.band

Art, noise and experimental rock all come together in this four-gent band. Even before they played Clockenflap last year, Ponyboy had started to make a name for itself around the scene as a band to watch, with their complex rhythms, screamy vocals and contrasting influences – from toys to grotesque movies – culminating in a sound that's simultaneously raw, distorted, clean and cerebral. *MT*

MURMUR

UBER-HIP POPPY SHOEGAZE
If you're into: My Bloody Valentine, Ride
Label: Imagine Imagine Imagine Records
Latest release: none
Upcoming release: Debut album *Screw Age*, Oct 2014
Recommended listening: *Ride Into the Sky*, bit.ly/TOHKMurmur
For more: facebook.com/murmurtheofficial
Upcoming show: Thu Jun 12, Hidden Agenda



If there's one thing Hong Kong's music scene needs, it's more girl-fronted hip rock bands – and in Murmur, a four-piece with Blythe Cheung on vocals, co-founders Julvian Ho and Gavin Yip on guitars, and Monsha Wong on bass, we've got one with significant promise. Jangly guitars, dual guy/girl vocals and an optimistic brightness are all hallmarks of Murmur, and taken to a new level by the infectious quality of their melodies. *MT*

DAVID BORING

RAW, FRENETIC ALT-ROCK
If you're into: Joy Division, The Hives
Label: none
Latest release: *DEM.O* (2014)
Upcoming release: TBC
Recommended listening: *I Can't*, bit.ly/TOHKDavidBoring
For more: facebook.com/davidboringhk
Upcoming show: Thu Jun 12, Hidden Agenda

"A bunch of self-hating, sociopathic, suicidal freaks interested in making noise that you will feel uncomfortable with." That's how David Boring describe themselves – and while we can't speak to the first three of these, we're not entirely sure about the last point. For this rock quintet's music, while admittedly dark, belligerent and in-your-face, marries shades of shoegaze, post-punk and psych-rock into a raw ball of goodness that's only just starting to make its mark on the Hong Kong scene. *MT*



MEET...

YOYO SHAM

HIPSTER FOLK

If you're into: India Arie, Lisa Hannigan, Tanya Chua

Label: True Color Ltd

Latest release: 2/2 (EP, 2012)

Upcoming release: Debut album, coming later in 2014

Recommended listening: *Someone Without a Story*, bit.ly/TOHKYoyoSham

For more: facebook.com/thisisyosham

The rich and rounded dulcet tones of Yoyo Sham's voice have cut to the hearts of hipsterites looking for a deeply emotive and thoughtful songstress. After a few EPs, Sham is finally going to release her long-awaited debut album that highlights her raw, urban folk sound. She explains to Arthur Tam why she's opted to pursue her career in Taiwan and how she hasn't forgotten Hong Kong...

Hi Yoyo, it's nice speaking to you. For people that don't know you, how would you describe yourself?

I'm an independent singer-songwriter from Hong Kong, living in Taiwan, who also works as a backup singer for pop concerts. My most recent involvement would be a charity concert series named Project WAO, which featured Sandy Lam, Tanya Chua, A-Mei and Na Ying.

What is the story behind you and your music?

I want very much to occupy myself with only what I love. It so happens that what I love is singing, and that perhaps is how I fell into it. Right now I'm busy working on my upcoming album.

You've released two EPs, both in Putonghua. Are we ever going to hear you sing at all in Cantonese?

I do have two Cantonese songs on my upcoming album. Maybe it's because I started writing songs when I was in Beijing, which is why I'm more comfortable in Putonghua. I find writing in Cantonese extremely difficult.

Why have you chosen to pursue your career in Taiwan instead of Hong Kong?

I don't consider that I have ever really left Hong Kong, even though I moved to Taiwan in 2010. I went to Taiwan to pursue my solo projects and that decision was based on my impression of Taiwan's indie music scene. I believed it would be more likely for me to meet like-minded musicians and find more varying venues, which would help me develop my music and gain experience. But I've never stopped working as a backup singer in HK's pop music scene for say... Eason, Joey or Khalil. I also come back to do my solo performances.

What do you think about Hong Kong's music scene then?

HK's pop music scene is about supply and demand. I believe it is the responsibility of the supply to provide possibilities and the demand to recognise their power to shape the scene. That is how things will grow and develop.



HK'S WORST NEW BANDS

Be warned: these guys are truly horrendous



BOP

It seems a universal truth that when C-Pop tries K-Pop, it results in disaster. BOP are, perhaps, the strongest evidence of this, yet. Consisting of Tyrese (!), Lincoln (!) and Gordon (!), this trio drip with a desperation of try-hard K-pop stars, sadly (like, really sadly) undermined by their woeful dance moves, singing and general concept.

Not recommended listening: <<登陸太陽>> *Landing on the Sun*, bit.ly/TOHK-BOP

Don't visit: facebook.com/HKBOP



FAITH

Watching Faith perform is like some new, unspeakably cruel form of torture. The group's three members, HY, Sky and Wave, do the very worst type of boy band dance music, complemented not by slick choreography and good looks but a cringe-worthy display of middle school theatrics. And not in a good way...

Not recommended listening: *Stop Peeping*, bit.ly/TOHK-Faith

Don't visit: bit.ly/Faith-FB



FANTAZ

Jaz, Nel and BT make up Fantaz, a terrible trio that, presumably, has put all its hopes on atrocious Mong Kok stylings, dreadful dance moves and snore-worthy vocals. Their song *Happy* bears a slight resemblance to *Never Gonna Give You Up*, but – this is putting things in context – makes Rick Astley's number seem like a heavenly artistic work for the ages.

Not recommended listening: *Happy*, bit.ly/Fantaz-Happy

Don't visit: bit.ly/Fantaz-FB



LEE SUBYUB

QUIRKY ROCK-FOLKSTER

If you're into: Crowd Lu

Label: Milkshake Music

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: Debut EP, by end of 2014

Recommended listening: <<少年圍搵的煩惱>> *The Sorrows of Young Waidup*, bit.ly/TOHKSubyubLee

For more: facebook.com/subyubmusic

Upcoming show: Sun Jun 22, ZukSession

If you've heard the songs of Taiwanese star Yoga Lin, or watched the movies *Vulgaria*, *Love in the Buff* or *Golden Chickens*, you may already be familiar with the work of Subyub Lee, who has written songs and contributed to scores for these acclaimed singers and films, respectively. But with his recently launched solo project, Lee stretches his quirky muscles, with witty social commentary, hilarious MVs and an eccentric folk-rock mix – an excellent addition to the swathe of talented singer-songwriters emerging in the Hong Kong scene. Check out his quirky debut solo single, *The Sorrows of Young Waidup*, which tells the story of his own school life. *MT*

MEET...

The spirited trio of Ouyang, Fat Jai and Showroom have captured the sentiments of the city's disenfranchised youth through their catchy folk songs layered with humorous social commentary. They are not afraid to take jabs at topics like unemployment, rent hikes and egregious working hours, and as they prepare for their shows in June, the rambunctious and carefree outfit tell Arthur Tam about their mission in music...

First off, can you tell us how you decided on your band name?

Showroom: We came by an old barbershop in Hung Hom and the name of it struck us. To us, the meaning of the name meant a new generation striving to change the world through a new way of thinking and new ideals. This is what we strive to do with our music.

Ouyang: We wanted the name to carry this feeling of being forever young.

You always have a way of adding humour to your songs. Where do you get your inspiration from?

NEWYOUTHBARBERSHOP

COMEDIC, ECCENTRIC FOLK

If you're into: My Little Airport, Flight of the Conchords

Label: unsigned

Latest release: <<靜雞雞>> *Secretly* (2013)

For more: bit.ly/NewYouthBarbershop

Recommended listening: *Off Work and My Butthole is More Relaxed*, bit.ly/TOHK-NYBS

Upcoming show: Jun 26-29, Rooftop of 235 Ap Liu St, Sham Shui Po

Showroom: We studied a course in humour abroad, but we ended up missing the first class. It's a hard question to answer. It's like asking how we are so good-looking. [Laughs]

Fat Jai: Seriously though, the humour just comes from daily life and the issues that our friends tell us they are dealing with.

Ouyang: Have you heard of our song, *Dare to Move*? It's a song Fat Jai and I wrote in school and it revolves around how we feel about the city.

So what are each of you responsible for in the group?

Showroom: I'm in charge of design and the MVs, Fat Jai writes the lyrics and Ouyang composes. But after we do everything we collectively put in our input and make changes that we agree upon.

Fat Jai: We have our individual projects, too. I'm working on a book that should be out by the end of this year.

Ouyang: I'll continue working on my music skills.

Showroom: And I'll work harder on graphic design because I want to eventually come out with my own product line.

We hear you guys have a show coming up. Can you tell us a little bit about the concept?

Fat Jai: The next show is called *Screw You the Rent Is Too High*. [Laughs] We'll have six shows for this series which just revolves around us basically. And we live in Hong Kong, so the themes are going to relate to Hong Kong.

(From left) Fat Jai, Showroom and Ouyang



CALVIN SIT

MEET...

YUKILOVEY

FEEL-GOOD POPTRONICA

If you're into: Waa Wei, Club 8

Label: 3721 Productions

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: EP, later in 2014

Recommended listening: <<小綿羊的氣味>> *Taste of Little Sheep*, bit.ly/TOHKYukilovey

For more: facebook.com/yukiloveypage

Upcoming show: Sun Jun 1, Stanley Plaza

In the last few months, the piano and guitar playing singer-songwriter Yukilovey, formerly of indie band *The Lee's*, has embarked on a solo project full of her wistful, electronic Cantopop creations. Yukilovey tells Mark Tjhung about the emotion in her music...

You've released a few singles so far, and all your songs mix acoustic and electronic sounds. Tell us about the sound you're curating...

I like electronic music and recently I've wanted to do more electronic stuff, because I think in HK, most music is made to a formula where they make music like a factory. I hope I can add some electronic, dreamy elements to Cantopop.

There's definitely a melancholic sound to a lot of your songs, too...

It's because I'm a Pisces, very emotional. [Laughs] Mostly when I feel sad, I like to hide my emotions and then write songs. They may not be about big



GALVIN SIT

issues but some tiny little thoughts and some random feelings.

Your song <<抓緊青春的尾巴>> (*Grab the Tail of Youth*) already made the top five of Commercial Radio's charts. Did you expect that to happen so quickly?

I didn't expect it because, for the commercial scene, I was concerned people wouldn't get used to the way I sing, because people think I sound snippy and busy. My songs are not very commercial but, at the same time, they're not very indie - they're in the middle.

In just a few months of this project, you've already released two songs. So, what have you got planned for the coming months?

I have written about 20 songs, but they are very rough. In the future, I'm hoping to make them more complete, and then release them.

We hear that you're also studying art - are you doing the artwork for your singles, too?

Actually, when I was small, my dream was to have my own album and I could do all the artwork. I think I am getting close to this dream.

TSE CHIN TUNG

FOLK-POP SONG CRAFTER

If you're into: Cheer Chen, Lala Hsu and Deserts Chang

Label: none

Latest Release: *Stubborn* <<倔強>> EP (2014)

Website: facebook.com/TseChinTung

Recommended Listening: *You Are Like the Sun, I Am Like the Moon*, bit.ly/TOHK-TseChintung

Upcoming Show: Sat Jul 5, Full Cup Café.



The honesty and purity of Tse Chin-tung's upbeat folk songs and gripping acoustic ballads has found praise from the likes of indie-folk king Chet Lam, as well as attracting a growing audience to her crafted tunes. She first gained recognition a few years ago after she wrote a song titled *Mom, I'm Under a lot of Pressure*, which was inspired by an internet poem, and soon went on to win a singer-songwriter contest at Taiwan's Spring Wave Music Festival. In April, Tse released her pop folk EP *Stubborn*, an easy-listening experience brightened by her mellifluous voice, while she has also penned major hits like Kary Ng's *Confession*. *AT*

JABIN LAW

BLUESY FOLK MUSINGS

If you're into: Leonard Cohen, Badly Drawn Boy

Label: unsigned

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: Debut demo with 20 songs, coming soon

Recommended listening: *Every Drop of Thought*, bit.ly/TOHKJabinLaw

For more: facebook.com/JabinLaw

Upcoming show: San Miguel Beer Festival, Jun 7 & 8, TST East



The songs of Jabin Law are every bit the archetype of heart-tugging, reflective folk: poetic, thoughtful and insightful, and combining gorgeous harmonic changes and his intoxicating vocals, the singer-songwriter's carefully constructed songs take melancholy to a new level. A perfect soundtrack to a gloomy afternoon or the wind down after a long night. *MT*



PROJECT ACE

FUNKY CANTO HIP-HOP

If you're into: 24Herbs, Khalil Fong, Chic

Label: Midou Music

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: Debut album, coming in August

Recommended listening: *Canton Funk*,

bit.ly/TOHKProjectAce

For more: facebook.com/projectace

Project Ace takes the grand tradition of Canto hip-hop collectives – think LMF and 24Herbs – and gives it a massive funky, jazzy, groovy twist. Formed by six professional musos from Midou Music, ranging from singers, drummers, DJs and guitarists, Project Ace manages to marry a world of influences, genres, sounds and languages (you'll hear Cantonese, Putonghua and English across their tracks) – and they seem to be packing some connections, too, as shown by their recent collaboration with Jurassic 5 MC, Akil, on *Canton Funk*. *MT*

SIS

CUTESY FOLK POP WITH AN EDGE

If you're into: Lenka, The Pancakes

Latest Release: none

Upcoming Release: Debut album, due summer 2014

Website: facebook.com/sisofficialfansclub

Recommending Listening: *It's Great to Dream*, bit.ly/TOHKSis1

There's a fresh, optimistic and quirky vibe about this sisterly duo, aptly named Sis. Lok Yan-ming and her older sister Yan-wan want to differentiate themselves from the tired heartbreak ballads that have characterised Cantopop by mixing things up with wacky cheerful rhythms and uplifting messages in their lyrics. Their song *520* combines pop culture references, rap and an unbearably cute melody to comment on how superficially the young generation treats relationships, while *It's Great to Dream* throws up infectious indie-pop catchiness. Sis has started to amass a following since the younger Lok appeared on Hong Kong's singing competition *The Voice*, and with the addition of her sister, have created a unique addition to Hong Kong's music scene by refusing to dwell on overly saccharine ballads. *AT*



GOLDEN

POP ROCK WITH A TWIST

If you're into: C All Star,

Rubberband

Label: Gold Typhoon

Latest Release:

<<足金金猴>> *The*

Golden Monkey (2012)

Upcoming release: New album,

coming in summer 2014

For more: bit.ly/Golden-FB

Recommending Listening: *The*

Main Focus (重頭戲),

bit.ly/TOHKgolden

The singer-songwriter group Golden consists of the seasoned and talented duo of Cousin Fung (pictured, right) and Kenneth Lau – a singing pairing that boasts an enviable vocal harmonising talent, unique timbre and vast range. Though the group joined forces back in 2008, they didn't release their debut album until 2012, mixing a range of influences from American pop to jazz and R&B to Britpop, set over lyrics that reflect the collective concerns of Hong Kong's contemporary youth. Before this debut, however, the two were already working with prominent Hong Kong musicians – Fung having written countless hits for diva/songstress Kay Tse. *AT*



SILHUNGMO

POWER-MATH-ROCKERS

If you're into: Tricot, Paramore

Label: Chopsticks Entertainments

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: Debut EP, end of 2014

Recommended listening: *Wolf*, bit.ly/TOHK-Silhungmo1

Website: facebook.com/SilHungMo

This young foursome may look cute and adorable, but, like the translation of their Chinese name (小紅帽) – 'Little Red Riding Hood' – Silhungmo are all about defying your first impressions. After winning various competitions and performing at Clockenflap and Taiwan's Formoz Festival, they've been held up as one of the most exciting new math-rock talents in the scene. But to this complex rock, they also mix in power-pop and emo tendencies, resulting in a sound that's at times catchy, heavy, driving, quirky and grooving. *MT*

MEET...

In just nine months, acoustic pop artist Calvert Fu has released two commercially successful hits that have topped the Cantopop charts. The 21-year-old Chinese major at Baptist University was just looking for a summer job when opportunity struck and he was discovered. His happy-go-lucky charm has won over audiences as of late and now he sits with Arthur Tam to share his story of stardom...

Tell us how you got discovered...

Last year I saw a post from Commercial Radio 903 that said they were offering a summer job with good pay, so I applied. I've been listening to 903 since I was young and just thought being at a radio station would be a good way to get work experience as well as insight into the entertainment industry. During the interview I expressed that I like singing and that I can play the guitar, so I performed for the panel of interviewers.

Did you know you were going to perform at the interview?

Not at all, the conversation came up naturally and then they provided me with a guitar and asked me to play. I played David Tao's *Just Friends*. You know, before the interview, I actually prepared the song

CALVERT FU

ACOUSTIC POP GEEK

If you're into: Jason Mraz, David Tao

Label: Sun Entertainment

Latest release: none

Upcoming release: N/A

Recommended listening: *Life Isn't About a Job*, bit.ly/TOHKCalvertFu

For more: facebook.com/calvertfu

thinking that just in case they asked me to play, I would be ready - and they actually did. After a week or so I get a phone call saying that Sun Entertainment wanted to sign me as an artist.

How did you feel?

This is something I've always wanted to do - it's my dream. Then someone tells me it's actually going to happen. Happy doesn't even begin to describe it.

How would you describe your music and image?

Happy, energetic, carefree and acoustic. For many artists these days, a handsome and pretty outer appearance still plays a major part in their popularity. But for me, I'm not, let's say, selling my looks. [Laughs] I'm a bit chubby to say the least, so if I can achieve something, it really means that people are open to other things. It's not just about people that are part of the karaoke machine any more.

What are you doing mostly now?

I'm focused on my school's a capella group, Senza. We are busy with school tours and we recently recorded a song with a new artist at Sun Entertainment, Vivian Chan. We do a lot of remixes to hit Cantopop songs.

What about your solo projects?

I'm going to try composing more of my own material and then I'll present the pieces to my company and see what they think.



CALVIN SI

YOUR FAVOURITE NEW...



QOLLISION

Metal band!

If you're into: Killswitch Engage, Lamb of God

Recommended listening: *Our End*, bit.ly/TOHKQollision

Latest release: *Qollision* (EP, 2013)

Upcoming release: New album, autumn 2014

For more: facebook.com/qollision

Upcoming show: Fri Aug 8, Hidden Agenda

Coming together with the aim of making the 'most technical music Hong Kong has heard', this prog metal outfit has already made a big noise in the local scene, with its relentless virtuoso metalcore sounds.



SHANDY GAN

Bossa queen!

If you're into: Lisa Ono, Henri Salvador

Recommended listening: *I Remember the...*, bit.ly/TOHKShandyGan

Latest release: *To Bossa*, April 2014

For more: facebook.com/shandyganhk

This Sony signee does sunny little bossa nova ditties in English and Putonghua, with that cutesy, jazzy vibe and hints of world music. All her self-penned tunes ooze an ever-so laid back breeziness, like an afternoon out on the harbour.



TRI DEUCES

Funk outfit!

If you're into: Incognito, Stevie Wonder

Recommended listening: *Saved by Signs*, bit.ly/TOHKTri-deuces

Upcoming release: New EP, coming summer 2014

For more: facebook.com/trideuces

Upcoming show: Sunset Concert, Sat Jun 14, HKAPA

If you're searching for some hot, horny, grooving tunes, look no further than this soulful six-piece team, which seeps out the kind of classic funky goodness you'd associate with Stevie Wonder, 'Smokin' with Superman and Incognito.