

# Urbaphonix, a new look at urban music

By Helen Pan & Intern Zheng Nanru



Urbaphonix Photo by Chen Zhuo

The rattling of lamp posts, the rumblings of trolleys on their tracks, and the gurgling of fountains... these are just a few of the sounds commonly heard around the city. While most people would never associate these sounds with music, creative minds have found a way to turn urban noise into exactly that. This is what *Urbaphonix* is all about.

This project was set up at Wuhan Tiandi. The lamp posts, handrails, and building materials in the area are all instruments carefully selected for inclusion in the *Urbaphonix* musical experience.

This performance is more

than a live concert.

*Urbaphonix* features performance art, technology, humor, and so on. It is also an interactive show where audience members are invited to take part in an urban musical adventure. At one point during one performance, an audience member struck a pose. One of the musicians untied his shoelaces and used them like guitar strings. The sound of his shoelaces coupled with the rhythmic clanging of a nearby lamp post and the banging sound produced by striking a metal desk created an interesting sound. To everyone's surprise, the

resulting music was quite spectacular.

*Urbaphonix* is about changing the way people listen. More interesting is that no two performances are alike. Before they performed in Wuhan, the musicians had to familiarize themselves with the environment and decide which objects at Wuhan Tiandi were suitable for the show. Talking about Wuhan, they said that this city "is very big" and "has zealous citizens."

*Urbaphonix* is the first local event for the 2016 Croisements Festival. It is the first time a performance like this has been put on in China.

## Precious artifacts unearthed from ancient tomb in Jingzhou

Archeologists from the Jingzhou Museum spent several days excavating a tomb located in Fenghuangdi. This ancient tomb has a history of more than 2,000 years. During the dig, 131 sets of artifacts and precious antiquities, such as inscribed wooden tablets, bamboo slips, lacquerware, pottery, and bronzeware, were unearthed. Among the artifacts discovered in the tomb was a lacquer plate with a diameter of 65 cm. This is the largest ancient lacquer plate unearthed in Jingzhou, and it is also a very rare national treasure.



Artifacts unearthed from the tomb

In the afternoon on May 1, the archeologists opened the main coffin. They found a well-preserved human surrounded by cinnabar paste. Looking at the characters inscribed on the

wooden boards, the archeologists were able to determine that the tomb's primary resident was the Chief Magistrate of Jiangling. Evidence suggests that he was buried in 166 B.C. In the wings of the tomb, archeologists discovered the remains of fruit-bearing plants, as well as peach cores, jujube cores, millet, and unhusked rice. When the tomb was opened, the unhusked rice was still golden.

Fenghuangdi is part of the Mt. Fenghuang ruins. Over 180 tombs built during the Qin and the Western Han dynasties have been discovered here.

## Calligraphy exhibition opens in Qiaokou

By Xiang Lingyan



Photo by Hu Sha

On April 23, the "Three Kinds of Ink" calligraphy exhibition opened at the Lanting Museum of Art in Qiaokou District. This exhibition is part of Hubei's fourth Calligraphy Art Festival and features over 120 works created by Gui Jianmin, Yang Jinchuan, and Wu Jingdong, three respected local artists. The aim is to let the public experience outstanding calligraphy and seal carving works, as well as introduce people to classic poems and increase public interest in the traditional arts.

This exhibition will be on display for one month, and it is open to the public for free.

## Literary flash mob popularizes reading on subway trains

By Tao Changning



Students reading on the train Photo by Tao Changning

April 23 is World Book Day. On that day, netizens posted on their microblogs that they saw a group of young people rush onto the train at Metro Line 3's Sports Center Station. After boarding the train, they sat or stood quietly and read. When the train stopped at Wangjiawan Station, they all got off.

These young people are students at Jiangnan University. These reading enthusiasts organized a literary flash mob. Wang Yongdan, vice Chairman of the Student Council and one of the organizers, said that he and the other students wanted to celebrate World Book Day and encourage people to pick up a book and read.