

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Honky-Tonked

Randy Abel gets Beijing's toe tapping through country tunes

How does honky-tonk do in China? I think our Chinese audience members respond to all the styles we play due to the wide acceptance of folk traditions in this culture, and it doesn't hurt that many start with Hank Williams as a basis for their understanding of real country music. Honky-tonk is an easy sell from there. **Who writes the songs?** So far, all the originals we do are mine, but the other guys have their own superb stuff that I often prod them to incorporate. The arrangements for my recent ones have all been collaborations.

What's your go-to crowd-pleaser?

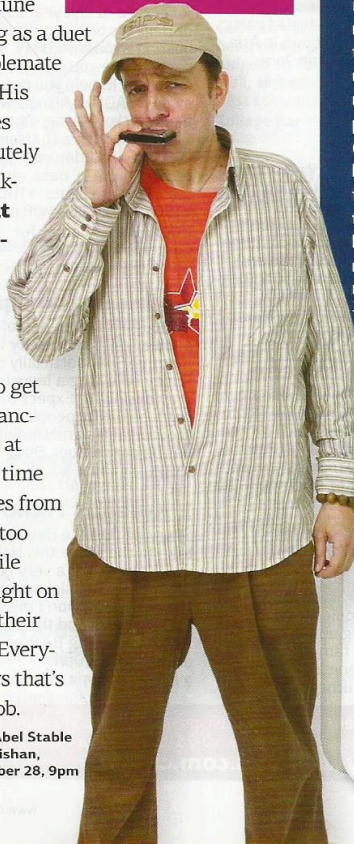
Right now it seems to be "I Am a Pilgrim," a gospel tune that I sing as a duet with Stablemate

Liu Yusi. His harmonies are absolutely heartbreaking. **What is honky-tonk?**

It's music intended to swing enough to get women dancing while at the same time keep dudes from thinking too much while they go right on ordering their whiskey. Everyone knows that's our real job.

The Randy Abel Stable at Yugong Yishan, Friday, October 28, 9pm

Music intended to get women dancing and keep dudes from thinking too much



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