



Joye Yeung (right) collaborates with Bai Yu at the 2022 Minhang Music Festival. — Ti Gong

Pandemic-hit musicians try to keep body and soul together

The pandemic in Shanghai has unnerved independent musicians, especially those who rely on live performance and music industry workers. Shanghai Daily's Zhang Long sat down with a few musicians and people from the industry to understand how they were coping since the end of the lockdown.



The House of Blues & Jazz on Fuzhou Road — Ti Gong

Indonesian drummer optimistic about an entertainment

JOYE Yeung, an Indonesian drummer who was born in Hong Kong, got his master's degree in percussion from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 2020.

He started playing bongos at age 6 and has loved them since. Joye, now 28, thinks Shanghai offers greater live music scope and entertainment business prospects than Hong Kong and Indonesia.

In the beginning of 2022, Joye left his teaching job at a private institute in Qingpu District, where he taught kids to play the drums. He now performs full-time for various bands and live performances. He and a few American musicians have formed Tequila Boombox, a jazz-and-Latin fusion band. They are currently working on an album.

Tequila Boombox is like a ball of energy that swings, grooves and rocks. It incorporates different styles into its music. When you arrive at the show, your feet begin to move, and your body follows. Anton Vittal, the band's guitarist, characterized their music as "before you know it, you're on the dance floor going crazy."

Tequila Boombox played at the House of Blues & Jazz near the Bund before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Because they play jazz and Latin, they've always had a stronger foreign audience than Chinese, Yeung said. He believes he has greatly improved by playing live for an audience.

To appeal to Chinese tastes, he discovered that fusing jazz with other music types such as rock 'n' roll and Latin is always a good idea. Since