

“

Life is not always predictable, and there will be ups and downs. You will be OK as long as you believe in yourself, keep going, and don't give up on your dream

Joye Yeung

Indonesian drummer

**Joye Yeung**

Yeung and Bai became good friends, Yeung played percussion for his ballad songs.

Unlike his customary jazz and Latin styles, ballad songs necessitate focusing on simple drum beats that can portray the ballads' feelings rather than intricate rhythms. It's similar to cooking; all you need to produce good fried rice is a precise amount of salt and nothing else.

Looking ahead, Yeung hopes there will be no more lockdowns and that the government will allow more venues to open so that they can perform live again.

"Life is not always predictable, and there will be ups and downs. You will be OK as long as you believe in yourself, keep going, and don't give up on your dream," he said.

**Chen Jie**

A guitar teacher moved to Hangzhou after the lockdown

CHEN Jie, 31, has been teaching guitar for nearly a decade. Unlike other music majors, Chen is passionate about the guitar and has been learning the instrument on his own since the age of 18.

Chen moved to Shanghai in 2015 from Xi'an, the capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, in the hope that there would be more teaching opportunities in Shanghai.

Before the pandemic struck, he had more than 40 students. His classes at a local guitar shop were canceled and, left with no students or cash, he returned to his hometown in Hubei Province.

He tried his hand at livestreaming but soon found out that playing guitar on platforms like Douyin isn't simple.

In July, he came up with

the idea of selling guitars on Taobao and Tmall, popular e-commerce platforms in China. He became a salesman who played the guitar for online buyers of the instrument.

Chen is happy in Hangzhou now, where life is slower and rent is cheaper than in Shanghai. He wants to save more money so he can buy a motorcycle next year.

“

I had many performances lined up but they were canceled.

Bai Yu

The independent singer-songwriter

'I felt like a falling leaf, clueless'

BAI Yu has released four albums of largely folk songs with observant and distant lyrics, but also reflect his philosophical and humanitarian thoughts, according to his bio posted on QQ Music.

The independent singer-songwriter studied jazz guitar at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He moved to Beijing in 2000 to join a grunge band, living in a small basement room with only a bed and a table for furniture.

He kept himself busy

reading books, mostly on philosophy, practicing with the band and working on his second album. A friend, worried about his mental health, tried to talk him out of it.

"I felt like a falling leaf, clueless. That's a line from one of the songs. In retrospect, making indie music felt like fate," he recalled.

He went on a nationwide tour after completing 12 songs for his second album. A Shanghai native, Bai had trouble blending into

**Bai Yu**

Beijing's culture. He mostly played live in cafes, art galleries and museums. He also taught guitar at Xiaoyinca, or Little Musician, in Shanghai, but the company ran into financial trouble and did not pay salaries for months. Before the COVID-19 outbreak hit Shanghai, he had a series of gigs lined up.

"I had many performances lined up but they were canceled," Bai said. Things were looking up...

"I was making experimental

music, but we had to drop everything," he said.

Bai tried online streaming during the citywide lockdown. He was conscious of the fact that the music he played couldn't compete with other streamers' short-video platforms. He barely made 4,000 yuan (US\$577) in three months. Bai, who performed at the 2022 Minhang Music Festival, expressed the hope that the pandemic would end soon.

A sound mixer does his bit in the pandemic fight

QI Chen works as a sound mixer at Moyin Studio. He is also a product of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Because the studio had a more consistent clientele, the pandemic had little effect on it. Nonetheless, they had to suspend all recordings and shift to the mixing side of the task.

During the lockdown, the studio helped battle the virus. In April, they contributed to the recording and mixing of a song called

"Tomorrow Will Be Better," which featured singers and celebrities and was intended to lift people's spirits.

Qi's acquaintances in the sound mixing sector have not been affected by the epidemic in the same way that many other musicians have, because they can still accomplish their jobs while staying at home with only their equipment and computers.

Professional vocalists' recordings may have suffered because they were unable to

visit the studio during the lockout. Also, as more musicians become self-sufficient, they can do the song recordings at home.

The studio offers sound mixing lessons.

Qi hopes that the pandemic will end soon so that he can work with talented musicians again.

"When the pandemic is over, I want to see all those wonderful musicians from all over the world again," he remarked.

**Qi Chen**