

FLY VIETNAM 遨遊越南

Quy Van Minh's
parents were both
professional
musicians

Quy Van Minh
的父母均為音樂家



Minh's Jazz Club
draws a crowd in
the Old Quarter

位於舊城區的
Minh's Jazz Club
吸引許多樂迷光顧

SAX AND THE CITY

色士風潮

TEXT/文 DANIEL ALLEN

PHOTOS/圖 JULIAN ABRAM WAINWRIGHT

The "grandfather of Vietnamese jazz" is ensuring
Hanoi's vibrant music scene has a growing audience

「越南爵士樂始祖」斷言河內繁盛的音樂市場會愈來愈多擁戴者



HANOI NATIVE Quyen Van Minh recalls a time when jazz was strictly taboo in Vietnam. “People thought I was crazy to learn jazz. It was just after the war with the US and playing that kind of music was considered seditious. I had to practise in secret.” Despite numerous challenges, however, Minh, now in his mid 50s, has successfully and virtually single-handedly catapulted the jazz genre to mainstream in the Vietnamese capital.

Driven by passionate artists such as Minh – known affectionately in Hanoi jazz circles as the “grandfather of Vietnamese jazz” – and a new generation of young players who have honed their musical skills in a more liberal artistic environment, Hanoi’s jazz scene is steadily diversifying. Locals, expats and visiting jazz lovers have an ever-expanding range of venues in which to indulge their passion, with Hanoi musicians increasingly feted at home and abroad for their unique East-West harmonies, rhythms and chords.

Minh’s family has a rich musical heritage. His father worked as a musician playing guitar and saxophone, although in Minh’s early years he had to take a job as a taxi driver to put food on the table. Minh’s mother was a professional singer who worked for the Voice of Vietnam radio station, but gave up after Minh was born. Minh’s son, Quyen Thien Dac, is also a very talented jazz musician, having studied at the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, and often accompanies his father on stage.

In 1997 Minh opened Minh’s Jazz Club in the Old Quarter, Hanoi’s cultural heart beside Hoan Kiem Lake. The place quickly became a magnet for Vietnamese jazz players of all ages, as well as hosting many celebrated international artists such as Herbie Hancock and Nguyen Le. “For a long time I’d dreamed of owning a place where there was live jazz every night and where people of many countries could come, talk and have a good time,” says Minh. “There’s no snobbishness here – the club is a place for all jazz lovers.”

Minh is not the only high-profile Vietnamese jazz player whose musical résumé has been strongly influenced by Vietnam’s 20th-century history. Born in Paris in 1959 to émigré Vietnamese parents, Nguyen Le

在

河內土生土長的Quyen Van Minh憶述，爵士樂在越南曾經是一大禁忌。他說：「別人聽到我在學爵士樂都覺得不可思議，都覺得我瘋了。那年頭，美、越戰爭剛結束，玩爵士樂被視為煽動叛亂罪，只可以偷偷練習。」然而，現年50多歲的Minh克服了重重困難，近年更可以說是憑一己之力，將爵士樂變成今天在越南首都甚受歡迎的主流音樂。

Minh在河內爵士圈有「越南爵士樂始祖」之稱，憑著像他這樣熱愛爵士樂的音樂老手，加上一群在較開明環境下成長的新世代年輕樂手推動下，河內爵士樂壇已日趨多元化。隨著當地樂手以融合東西風格的獨特和聲、節奏及和弦在國內外漸受歡迎，喜歡爵士音樂的當地人、僑民和遊客，亦有愈來愈多的聚腳點。

Minh一家都與音樂結下不解之緣。父親曾經是職業結他手兼色士風手，可惜為了養家而要在Minh小時候轉當的士司機。母親則是越南之聲廣播電台的職業歌手，在兒子出生後才放棄工作。至於Minh的兒子Quyen Thien Dac，則同樣是才華洋溢的爵士樂手，曾負笈波士頓著名音樂學院Berklee College of Music，現時經常與父親同台演出。

還劍湖畔的舊城區素有河內文化心臟之美譽，1997年，Minh在這裡開設了Minh’s Jazz Club，很快便吸引了不同年紀的越南爵士樂手和國際級爵士樂高手前來表演，其中包括Herbie Hancock和Nguyen Le。Minh表示：「我一直都希望開一家這樣的店子，每晚請爵士樂手來作現場表演，讓來自世界各地的樂迷在這裡聊天、歡聚。我們歡迎所有爵士樂迷，不會擺出一副高不可攀的姿態。」

在越南的知名爵士樂手當中，除Minh外，音樂造詣深受當地20世紀一段歷史影響的大有人在。1959年於巴黎出生的Nguyen Le，父母是越南移民，他被譽為是全球最具創意的爵士樂手之一，擅長將傳統越南音樂融入經典的美式爵士樂之中。

2004年，Le曾在河內和胡志明市的歌劇院演出四場，門票迅速售罄。現時定居巴黎的他表示：「沒想到來捧場的除了傳統音樂人之外，年輕搖滾樂手的數目也一樣多。作為海外越僑，我的音樂能將越南兩個原本甚少交流的社群拉在一起，令我興奮不已。」

Quyen Thien Dac (above left) performs as his father’s club (above right)

Quyen Thien Dac (上圖左)在父親開設的酒吧(上圖右)表演

Nguyen Le (below) fuses American jazz with traditional Vietnamese music

Nguyen Le(下圖)將傳統越南音樂融入美國爵士樂之中



FLY VIETNAM 遨遊越南

has developed a reputation as one of the world's most creative jazz players, fusing classical American jazz tunes with traditional Vietnamese music.

On tour in 2004, Le's four concerts in the Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh opera houses quickly sold out. "I was surprised to see that there were as many traditional musicians as young rockers in the audience," says Paris-based Le. "I'm glad that my music, performed from a foreign Vietnamese perspective, is bringing together two different local communities which don't usually interact."

After visiting Hanoi in 2000 and playing at Minh's Jazz Club, Le was surprised by the country's burgeoning jazz scene. "Back then I heard some very talented young Vietnamese musicians. It was great to see, hear and feel their passion. I can't wait to hear this new generation as they mature," he says.

Quyen Van Minh is inspiring other jazz players by teaching at the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music. Many of his best students showcase their skills on stage with him. Nguyen Bao Long, a saxophonist and former pupil, says the late American jazz great John Coltrane and Minh have been his inspiration. "Now I teach saxophone at an international school in Hanoi," he says. "I try to inspire the next generation as my idols once inspired me."

Another venue helping to elevate young Vietnamese jazz players is I-Box, overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake. It hosts live jazz every Friday night. "We get people of all ages and nationalities coming here to listen to jazz," says assistant manager Le Quoi Dong.

"The business side of jazz in Vietnam remains a challenge," says Minh. "However, I'm sure Hanoi's jazz buzz can lead to a more lucrative jazz industry here – it's just a matter of time."



A new generation of jazz players entertain at I-Box Café

I-Box Café是新一代爵士樂手表演的場地

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Le於2000年到訪河內, 在Minh's Jazz Club演奏後, 對越南爵士樂發展之迅速感到十分意外。他說:「那次讓我認識到一些很有天分的年輕越南音樂人, 我可以耳聞目睹和感受到他們的熱忱, 真的希望可以快點欣賞到這些新世代樂手更成熟的表現。」

Quyen Van Minh同時也在河內音樂學院教授爵士樂, 桃李滿門, 許多高足都有機會跟他同台獻技。色士風手Nguyen Bao Long正是其中之一, 他表示Minh和已故的爵士樂大師John Coltrane都是他的啟蒙老師。他說:「現時我在河內一間國際學校教授色士風, 我希望自己能像兩位偶像一樣, 也可啟迪下一代。」

眺望還劍湖的I-Box酒吧兼餐廳, 是另一個讓爵士樂新秀展示音樂才華的場地。I-Box每逢周五晚上都有現場爵士樂表演, 其助理經理Le Quoi Dong表示:「不同年齡、國籍的客人來這裡欣賞爵士樂。」

最後, Minh表示:「若果把爵士樂作為一門生意, 在越南仍然要面對一定的困難。不過, 以河內的爵士熱潮來看, 我敢說這行業是有利可圖, 它的發展指日可待。」

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Where to go Minh's Jazz Club

Located in the Old Quarter, close to Hoan Kiem Lake, Minh's is the place to hear live Vietnamese jazz, with great performances every night. Minh is usually there and frequently gets up on stage to join the jamming. Many people return to this jazz club simply because of Minh, who usually visits every table to chat with guests. The club has an extensive food and drinks menu with Western and Asian dishes, beers, wines and cocktails.

**31 Luong Van Can,
Hoan Kiem,
Hanoi**



Minh's Jazz Club

+84 4 3828 7890
www.minhjazzvietnam.com
Restaurant: 10am – midnight
Live music: 9pm-11:30pm

爵士酒吧 Minh's Jazz Club

Minh's Jazz Club位於還劍湖附近的舊城區，每晚都有精采的越南爵士樂表演。Minh更幾乎每晚都在此與爵士樂手合奏，並會跟所有顧客打招呼，很多人都是為了欣賞Minh的表演而再三光顧。餐廳提供多款美食，既有西餐，也有亞洲佳餚，啤酒、葡萄酒和雞尾酒任君選擇。

**31 Luong Van Can,
Hoan Kiem, Hanoi**
+ 84 4 3828 7890

www.minhjazzvietnam.com
餐廳營業時間：早上10時至午夜
現場音樂演出：晚上9時至11時30分

I-Box Bar & Café

毗鄰還劍湖的I-Box是高級時尚餐廳兼酒吧，飲品和食物款式非常多元化，西餐與越南菜共冶一爐，最受歡迎的菜式包括有肥美多汁的澳洲牛柳、百里香醬烤羊肉、挪威三文魚扒。葡萄酒種類一樣繁多，雞尾酒也值得一試。星期三及五大多有現場爵士樂演出。

**32 Le Thai To,
Hoan Kiem, Hanoi**
+84 4 3828 8820
餐廳營業時間：
早上8時至深夜

RISE AND SHINE 扶搖直上

Vietnam's economy is booming. "With an annual growth rate of about 8 percent over the past few years, Vietnam is one of the most dynamic countries in the world right now," says Etienne Laumonier of international law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel in Hanoi. "Attracting record investment from many multinational and regional companies, the country is close on the heels of its powerful neighbours, China and India. Hanoi is not only the political centre of the country, but also an ever-developing financial and economic centre."

The growth has been underpinned by market deregulation, stable politics and rising consumer spending. Admission to the World Trade Organization last year has effected faster foreign trade and capital flows; by the middle of 2008 more than US\$30 billion had been committed by offshore investors, with approximately half channelled into real estate and industrial investments.

Consulting firm A. T. Kearney recognised Vietnam as the most attractive retail market in the world in its 2008 Global Retail Development Index. However, 2008 has been a volatile year for the Vietnamese real-estate market. Kate Symons, Head of Corporate Communications at Savills Vietnam in Hanoi says: "The credit crunch forced banks to limit lending and demand for property dropped. Developers were



Hanoi is hot property for developers
河內地產發展蓬勃，深受地產商歡迎

also hindered by increasing construction costs caused by high inflation and higher land costs. Mortgages are at double-digit rates. But there is still strong demand in the market for luxury property, with overseas investors very keen on making purchases."

Typifying the capital's burgeoning luxury property market is the Keangnam Hanoi Landmark Tower, which, at 336 metres, will be Vietnam's tallest building when it is completed in 2010.

Keangnam, one of the most prolific and experienced South Korean construction companies, is investing about US\$500 million in the US\$1.05-billion project. The main 70-storey tower will house the InterContinental Hanoi Landmark luxury hotel, serviced residences, offices and a shopping centre, while two additional apartment towers will contain 900 luxury apartments – of which nearly half have been sold.

越南的經濟正欣欣向榮。任職河內國際律師行Gide Loyrette Nouel的Etienne Laumonier表示：「越南已躋身經濟發展速度最快的國家之列，過去數年平均年增長率約達百分之八。越南緊隨鄰國中國和印度之後，吸引國際及區內企業龐大的資金。河內不僅是越南的政治中心，更是發展中的金融及經濟樞紐。」

由於市場管制放寬、政局穩定及消費力增加等因素，為越南的經濟增長奠下良好基石。去年越南加入世貿，更加速了國內的外貿發展和資金流動。今年中，離岸投資者在越南共投放了300多億美元，約半數用於發展房地產和工業。

顧問公司A. T. Kearney發表的「2008年全球零售發展指數」，亦將越南評為最具吸引力的零售市場。然而2008年越南的房地產市場卻非常動盪，河內第一太平戴維斯的企業傳訊部主管Kate Symons解釋：「信貸危機迫使銀行減少借貸，導致物業需求下降；高通脹及高地價亦令發展商的建築成本上升；加上按揭利率高達雙位數，均不利於房地產市場的發展。幸而，豪宅市場依然需求甚殷，讓海外投資者趨之若鶩。」

Keangnam Hanoi Landmark Tower可說是河內豪宅市場暢旺的明證。大樓預計於2010年竣工，樓高336米，將會是越南最高的建築物。

Keangnam是南韓最活躍和最富經驗的建築公司之一，他們在這項達10.05億美元的項目當中約出資5億美元。高70層的主樓將設有洲際集團的豪華酒店、服務式住宅、辦公室和購物中心。另外兩幢住宅大樓則有900間豪華公寓，近半數已經賣出。

FLY VIETNAM 遨遊越南

I-Box Bar & Café

Sophisticated restaurant and bar on Hoan Kiem Lake offering an extensive drinks and food menu. Dishes are a mix of Western and Vietnamese – favourites include the succulent Australian tenderloin steak, roasted lamb with thyme sauce and Norwegian salmon steak. There is a comprehensive wine list and the cocktails are also worth sampling. Live jazz is played most Wednesdays and Fridays.

32 Le Thai To,
Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
+84 4 3828 8820
Restaurant: 8am-late

M Secret Café

This multi-level restaurant close to Hoan Kiem Lake has live music every night. Extensive menu features a mix of Western and Vietnamese cuisine – lamb ribs with salad and rice with stir-fried squid are favourites. Wednesday and Friday are jazz nights, with a spectacular flamenco performance on Saturdays.

64 Nguyen Du,
Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
+84 4 3214 4533
http://minhnam.net
Restaurant: 7am-11pm
Live music: 8:30pm-10:30pm



M Secret Café

佔地數層的餐廳鄰近還劍湖，每晚均有現場音樂表演。菜式多元化，西餐和越南菜兼具，招牌菜有羊肋骨配沙律和鮮魷炒飯。逢星期三、五是爵士之夜，周六另有精采的西班牙佛蘭明高舞表演。

64 Nguyen Du,
Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
+84 4 3214 4533
http://minhnam.net
餐廳營業時間：
早上7時至晚上11時
現場音樂演出：
晚上8時30分至
10時30分

PARTY ON OR ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE OPERA 夜幕低垂 精采節目源源送上

While Hanoi's nightlife still has some way to go before it rivals that of London, Tokyo, or Ho Chi Minh City, there's plenty to do for those looking to wind down after a hard day's sightseeing or party the night away until the midnight curfew.

Driven by the growing number of resident expats, a decent bar scene is rapidly developing in the capital, mostly in the Old Quarter and around Hoan Kiem Lake. Check out Le Maquis Bar (2A Ta Hien Street, Hoan Kiem +84 4 3928 2618), Funky Buddha (2 Ta Hien Street, Hoan Kiem, +84 91 488 6689), or any of the bars on Hang Hang Street off Hoan Kiem Lake. The former is a stylish, French-owned bar offering varieties of Vietnamese rice wine (plus wines, beers and cocktails), while the dancefloor of Funky Buddha attracts a young, mixed crowd enjoying varied theme nights.

A more authentic, alfresco nightlife experience can be enjoyed on *bia hoi* (draught beer) corner, on the intersection of Ta Hien and Luong Ngoc Quyen, where locals and tourists quaff copious quantities of beer from late afternoon onwards. It's a good place to meet young Hanoians eager to practise their language skills.

Bobby Chinn on Hoan Kiem Lake (1 Ba Trieu Street, www.bobbychinn.com) offers a slower, sophisticated scene, and often has live music. After relaxing over tapas in one of the secluded, silk-screened booths, those looking for an even mellower experience can smoke one of the Egyptian-style hookahs.

The Sofitel Metropole's La Terrasse sidewalk bar (15 Ngo Quyen Street) is also a nice place for an early evening cocktail.

For a more cultured evening in the capital the Hanoi Opera House (1 Trang Tien Street, +84 4 3933 0113) regularly hosts performances by local and international artists. The Thang Long Water Puppet Theatre is also worth a visit and conducts regular evening performances. (57B Dinh Tien Hoang Street, +84 4 3824 9494, www.thanglongwaterpuppet.org).

Thang Long Water Puppet Theatre
昇龍水上木偶劇院

儘管河內的夜生活遠不如倫敦或東京甚至胡志明市的精采，但對於白天忙著觀光、晚上想輕鬆一下或盡情玩樂的旅客來說，河內的選擇其實不少。

隨著前來定居的外國人愈來愈多，河內的酒吧也愈開愈多，其中大多位於舊城區和還劍湖周邊。Le Maquis Bar (2A Ta Hien Street, Hoan Kiem, +84 4 3928 2618)、Funky Buddha (2 Ta Hien Street, Hoan Kiem, +84 91 488 6689)，以及Hang Hang Street上的酒吧，都值得光顧。前者是一間由法國人開設的時尚酒吧，提供各種越南米酒（還有葡萄酒、啤酒及雞尾酒）。每晚均有不同主題的Funky Buddha，則吸引各國年輕人在舞池裡狂歌熱舞。

位於Ta Hien與Luong Ngoc Quyen交界的bia hoi（生啤酒）設有露天座位，氣氛比較道地。下午四、五時開始，當地人和遊客便會在此暢飲。許多河內的年輕人，都喜歡來這裡練習外語。

還劍湖旁的Bobby Chinn (1 Ba Trieu Street, www.bobbychinn.com) 經常舉辦現場音樂會，氣氛悠閒、裝潢不落俗套。坐在由絲質垂簾遮蔽的雅座裡，享用過西班牙小吃後，想進一步放鬆心情，不妨抽幾口埃及水煙。

而Sofitel Metropole酒店的La Terrasse酒吧 (15 Ngo Quyen Street)，位於行人道旁，亦是黃昏時喝杯雞尾酒的好去處。

要度過一個充滿文化氣息的晚上，河內歌劇院 (1 Trang Tien Street, +84 4 3933 0113) 經常有國內外藝術家登台演出。昇龍水上木偶劇院 (57B Dinh Tien Hoang Street, +84 4 3824 9494, www.thanglongwaterpuppet.org) 每晚均有精采表演。



