



**Publication:** The Wall Street Journal  
**Date:** Mar 16 2007  
**Headline:** Time off: Arabian Dreams

# time off

by Blythe Yee

## Hong Kong concert

Elaine Paige Live in Hong Kong 2007: She's the British musical-theater diva who's headlined many blockbuster, mass-market musicals ("Evita," "Cats," "Sunset Boulevard" etc.). Expect big, dramatic, tear-jerking ballads like "Memory," "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" and "The Rose."  
 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, March 23, 8 p.m.  
 Admission: HK\$580 to HK\$2,380  
 ☎ 852-3128-8288  
 Web: www.hkcticketing.com

## exhibition

The Silk Road in Inner Mongolia: This exhibition showcases artifacts from the steppes of China's Silk Road, with pieces dating from the Tang dynasty (A.D. 618 to 907) to the Yuan (1271 to 1368). The nomadic arts on show reflect the transient lifestyles of the region's population, with both Western and Eastern influences shaping aesthetics along the ancient trade route.  
 University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong, 94 Bonham Rd., to May 13, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Free admission.  
 ☎ 852-2241-5500  
 Web: www.hku.hk/hkumag

## Kuala Lumpur concert

An Evening of Opera: This is opera for people who aren't hugely into opera—that is, a concert evening of relatively well-known works from Verdi (the feel-good opera composer), Puccini (the sentimental opera composer) and Wagner (the rock 'n' roll opera composer). Famed soprano Elizabeth Connell, who made her name singing big, juicy Wagner roles, is the guest soloist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dewan Philharmonik Petronas, Tower Two, Petronas Twin Towers; March 16 and 17, 8:30 p.m.  
 Admission: 25 ringgit to 95 ringgit.  
 ☎ 60-3-2051-7007  
 Web: www.malaysianphilharmonic.com

## Singapore film

Arabian Dreams: Screenings of two classics from the silent-film era, when sheiks were considered the height of chic and screenwriters had decidedly less work to do. "The Adventures of Prince Achmed" (1926), based on the epic "The Arabian Nights," is one of the first known animated features, while "The Son of the Sheik," also from 1926, is a prime specimen of Hollywood schmaltz, starring silent-screen hunk Rudolph Valentino.

Gallery Theatre, National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Rd.; March 24 and 31, 8 p.m.  
 Admission: S\$12 and S\$8.  
 ☎ 65-6332-3659  
 Web: www.nationalmuseum.sg

## theater

No Regrets, A Tribute to Edith Piaf: A sort of vaudeville tribute concert honoring the throaty French singer known as "The Sparrow." Vocalists Emma Yong, Leigh McDonald, Asha and Aureore deliver renditions of Edith Piaf's greatest hits, including the winsome



University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong (earrings); Giuseppe Bergomi (sculpture)

artists. The sheer variety of pieces on display, many of which are in traditional media—there are bronze nudes, poster-like cityscapes, and figure paintings in oil—are a rather refreshing departure from most contemporary shows, which seem obsessed with digital art and themes of globalization.

Taipei Fine Arts Museum, 181 Chungshan North Rd., Sec. 3; to June 24, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday to 9:30 p.m., closed Monday.  
 Admission: NT\$30.  
 ☎ 886-2-2595-7656  
 Web: www.tfam.gov.tw

## Tokyo concert

Edita Gruberova: An Evening of Opera Arias: A soprano who made her name by hitting very, very high notes, such as those stratospheric cries in the treacherous "Queen of



**Hong Kong:** A pair of gold earrings (above), from "The Silk Road in Inner Mongolia"; **Taipei:** "Modella nera su tavolino Ikea" by Giuseppe Bergomi (left), from "The New Italian Art Scene"

the Night" vengeance aria in Mozart's "The Magic Flute." She's known best for coloratura roles—those that demand extreme virtuosity and speed in the highest range. Ms. Gruberova will be appearing with baritone Ivan Paley in a concert that includes works by Mozart, Donizetti

and Bellini.  
 Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, 5-45 Ueno Park, Taito-ku; April 1, 2 p.m., April 6, 7 p.m.  
 Admission: 8,000 yen to 21,000 yen.  
 ☎ 81-3-5721-8000  
 Web: www.nbs.or.jp

ditty that surfaces in every bad romantic comedy set in France, "La Vie en Rose."

DBS Arts Centre, 20 Merbau Rd., Robertson Quay; March 27 to April 1, 8 p.m., March 31 and April 1, 4:30 p.m.  
 Admission: S\$55 to S\$70.  
 ☎ 65-6348-6555  
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg

## Seoul dance

Isabella's Room: From Belgian dance troupe Jan Lauwers & Needcompany comes this decidedly strange dance narrative about Isabella, a woman of a certain age, reminiscing about her life, her loves, and the landmark events—two world wars, space exploration, rock 'n' roll—that she has witnessed. In English and French, with Korean subtitles.

LG Arts Center, 679 Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu; March 30, 8 p.m., March 31, 6 p.m., April 1, 4 p.m.  
 Admission: 30,000 won to 70,000 won.  
 ☎ 82-2-2005-0114  
 Web: www.lgart.com

## Taipei exhibition

The New Italian Art Scene: A survey of contemporary work from 10 Italian