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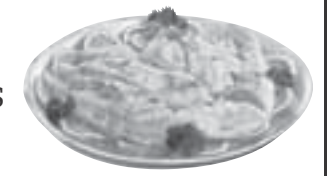
# ALL YOU CAN EAT

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# 6th Annual Award Winning Riverfolk Music & Arts Festival

August 3-4, 2007  
Carr Park, Manchester, MI



Susan Werner

**Ultimate Dance Party and Pig Roast**  
Friday  
7:30pm - 11:00pm

**Riverfolk Festival**  
Saturday  
11am - Midnight



# Renowned Chinese musician brings talents to stage

By Daniel Lai  
Editor

Bringing her unique musical skills with the erhu (Chinese violin) to the stage at this year's Manchester Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival is international sensation Yang Ying.

A student of her father, Ying began the study of the erhu at the age of five. By 13, she was performing solo concerts, and by 19 she had graduated from the Opera University of Henan, China and had begun performing for the Central Song and Dance Ensemble in Beijing.

"Both of my parents are musicians. My father was a conductor and a great erhu player. Music was present everywhere in my house from the time I was born," she said. "To play the erhu was not my decision — my father decided that I would play the erhu. From an early age he would wake me at 5 in the morning, and we would run together to the park to practice before school."

Ying said because she lived in an apartment, it was impractical to practice at home in the morning because she did not want to wake her neighbors.

"... I would also practice every day

after school and homework. It was very traditional, hard training — my father would teach each single note of a song. Actually, even with all of my training as a child, my dream was to be a doctor of traditional Chinese Medicine."

However, because her uncles supported the Nationalist Party, her family was persecuted during the Cultural Revolution, she said.

"In order to escape that persecution, my parents lied about my age and sent me to formal music school at the Henan Opera University in Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, China. From then, my future as a professional musician was set."

At 25, Yang Ying won first place in a national erhu competition, clearly distinguishing herself as one of the foremost erhu players in China.

The former Central Song and Dance Ensemble was the premier traditional musical and dance troupe in China, and from 1978 to 1996 Ying was the featured solo instrumentalist. As the featured soloist, Ying routinely traveled throughout Asia performing for heads of state (including former presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter. During her tenure, she also frequently recorded for the film and record industry in China.

In 1996, Ying's accomplishments

were recognized by her inclusion in the Chinese government's publication of "Famous Persons of China."

However, Ying said her success did not come without sacrifice.

"As with any instrument, to be great requires a lot of sacrifice and discipline," she said. "My father taught me in a very rigid, traditional manner. He would demand all of my attention and energy during practice. He would literally teach a song note by single note - we would practice each note until he felt that it was perfect, then work on the next note."

"I almost never went out to play with children. I used to be interested in crocheting. I had seen other girls making a table cloth and I wanted to do that, but my dad would not let me. I really wanted to do it, but the only time I could without my father knowing was when walking to and from school."

Ying said she recalls the one time she tried to crochet a tablecloth her father became very upset.

"...I had secretly almost completed crocheting a table cloth for our table at home on the daily trips to and from school, but my dad found out about it. He cut it up with scissors and told me never to waste time on such trivial domestic matters," she said. "His teaching was, in order to be great at something, you must focus all your

energy on that thing. He would often repeat an old Chinese saying 'If you want to do things well, you have to put your whole heart there.'

"Actually, after my father's training all other formal training seemed very easy in comparison. I realize now that my father was a great man. He sacrificed as much as I in order to teach me, and he devoted his life in this way to all of our family."

Ying said for the most part, her music is drawn from personal life experiences.

"My concerts include a combination of my own arrangements of traditional, signature erhu pieces, covers of American jazz classics with erhu lead, and my own music that is a fusion of various Chinese and Western musical idioms," she said. "Your life experience is the heart and soul of your music, both in composition and performance. Someone once said that 'life is input, music is output.' I believe that totally.

"I believe that my generation is the richest in China because in our lives we have experienced a great deal - from the persecutions of the Cultural Revolution and how that upended our families to the gradual opening of China to the West. I was also fortunate to study all forms of Chinese opera and

See YING — Page 3



Children become quickly fascinated with the myriad events held at the Kids Area throughout the day. This year events include instrument making and storytelling followed by a Kid's Parade.

## Roast kicks off festivities

By Daniel Lai  
Editor

To help kick off the festivities at this year's festival, a Ultimate Dance Party and Pig Roast will be held from 7-11 p.m. on Friday at Carr Park.

George Bedard & the King Pin and Swamperella, from Toronto, who plays Cajun and Zydeco-style music, will perform at the evening's events.

In addition, a buffet catered by Chef Chris' Boogie Woogie BBQ will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. with a cash bar until 10:30 p.m.

"We have some great dance music

this year," event coordinator Mark Palms, said. "Few in attendance will sit still for long."

The cost for the dance party is \$25 and barbecue will be sold at \$10 a plate. The meal includes fresh fruit, salad, vegetarian jumbalaya, red beans and rice and vegetable side dishes.

"Chef Chris, known throughout the Detroit area and far beyond for his high-octane bluesmanship, is an actual foodie," his Web site states. "When he's not standing like a monument on the stage screaming the blues he is cooking it up in the kitchen, Chef Chris is known for his crawfish gumbo, jambalaya and smoked barbecue."

## RULES

Continued from Page 2

would love to keep you full and content throughout the Festival day and evening, but no alcohol is sold at the Festival. Coolers are welcome if you are inclined to have a libation. Alcoholic beverages are available in stores in Manchester.

### Smoking

Even though this is an outdoor event, we try to limit smoking to designated areas that have "butt buckets" available for cigarette disposal.

### Recycle

We try to leave the park in even better condition than we found it so help us by pitching in, as trash receptacles are clearly marked and available throughout the park. Some of our community members benefit from the collected returnable bottles and cans. Please use these bins marked "recycle".

### Credit Cards/ATM

Our juried art show is there not

only for your perusal but also available for purchase. Most artists accept credit cards but not all. Public ATM machines are available at the local banks and businesses downtown.

### Workshops

The dance and music workshops are free and open to the public on a first-come first-serve basis.

### Kids

There are activities for children in our Kids Area. All children using the Kids Area are required to check-in at the gate and get a nametag.

### Seniors

There is special "Senior Citizen's Tent" with tables and chairs, and hospitality available for seniors. Volunteers are on hand to assist you.

### Autographs

Patrons are not allowed backstage. Most performers are willing and eager to sign CDs and photographs. A good time to find your favorite performer is at the merchandise tent directly after their main stage set.

## Riverfolk Do's and Don'ts

The Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival is a family oriented event. To help keep the Festival an enjoyable experience for attendees of every generation, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

### Pets

There are absolutely no pets allowed at the festival.

### Alcohol

We have food vendors who

See RULES — Page 7

## Manchester Storage



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# Sprawl adds unique flavor, music to performance

By Daniel Lai  
Editor

Festival patrons will be treated to a unique musical experience at this year's Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival with the addition of California-native Paul Sprawl.

Sprawl has a unique, creative and soulful approach to the guitar, to songwriting, and to finding an audience for his work. Sprawl grew a national audience by traveling around in a van going to open mic events across the country and soon garnered the attention he was seeking through his combination percussive guitar techniques with bottleneck, tapping, harmonica on a rack, and songs of the downtrodden.

Sprawl has a college arts education and has put out six CD's in seven years. With performances in 35 states and shows in Canada and Germany, Sprawl toured six to eight months a year from 2000-05, and he's back at it again. Since his 1999 CD, Blue Suitcase, produced by Lee Townsend (Bill Frisell, Kelly Joe Phelps) for the German label, Intuition, he's put out five more full-length CD's on his own label, Vagabond Music.

Recently the Manchester Enterprise

met up with Sprawl to discuss his music, songwriting inspirations and future goals.

**Manchester Enterprise:** How did you get your start in the music industry? Where did your inspiration come from?

**Paul Sprawl:** I led a sing-along version of "I'd like to Teach the World to Sing" at a Mary Kay Cosmetics conference when I was 15 years old. I got paid \$50 and my career began. I was inspired by the social upheaval and creativity of the bohemian and counter-culture activity during my childhood and adolescence.

**ME:** How much discipline is involved in performing and recording?

**PS:** More than you would believe or comprehend.

**ME:** Ok. Do you write your own music? Where does the inspiration come from?

**PS:** I write the songs I perform and the inspiration comes from all over, but I've noticed that lyrically I have a tendency to give a voice to the forgotten; mostly misfits, outcasts, and wackos.

**ME:** Have you performed for anyone famous?

**PS:** I've performed for lots of great people in this country and across the Atlantic. The good audiences and good

shows I remember and those people are famous to me.

**ME:** What is your favorite aspect of performing?

**PS:** I love performing for its intrinsic value. To facilitate a worthwhile group experience as a performer is very satisfying and feels something like what it feels like to be there in the audience during such an event.

**ME:** Do you ever get nervous? How do you calm that feeling?

**PS:** I get nervous in front of my parents and when the sound system isn't working well, or is being operated badly. I don't have good ways to get calm during those times, but most folks can't tell that I'm not calm.

**ME:** What's your favorite type of music?

**PS:** My favorite kind of music is good music. There's always something in every genre for the person who prefers good quality work over bad.

**ME:** Have you performed anywhere famous?

**PS:** I've performed at some wonderful places. Sometimes the place can help the show a lot. I love performing outside in a naturally beautiful setting.

**ME:** How do you get ready for a per-

formance? How much rehearsal time does it typically take?

**PS:** Right before the show I like to spend time alone to focus on what needs attention. Being ready is a never-ending process that should take time from each day. Unfortunately the requirements of making a living at this take a lot of time away from the music itself and keep me busy doing things like this, booking gigs and lots of other non-musical stuff.

**ME:** What are your long-term career goals?

**PS:** I want to create some great recordings and do lots of great shows. In order to do this I need resources — mostly time, but also money to pay the bills. I figure I need a bigger audience to do this, so I'm planting those seeds and doing my best to grow this garden without pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

**ME:** Well thank you Paul and good luck with the show at this year's festival.

**PS:** You're welcome.

Sprawl will perform on the main stage at 5:45 p.m. Saturday. He will be the evening M.C.

Editor Daniel Lai can be reached at 428-8173 or dlai@heritage.com.



Chinese ehu player Yang Ying will delight audiences with her unique musical talents at this year's festival. Yang combines several types of music to create her pieces.

## YING

Continued from Page 2

Western orchestral music at the Henan Opera School, as well as to travel and directly experience folk music. All of this life and musical experience informs my compositions."

Ying said over the years, she has learned that playing for famous heads of state and other prominent audience members is no harder than performing in front of a regular audience.

"... To me all of the audience members are famous. To play for world leaders is absolutely no different than to play to everybody else," she said. "Live performance is the best part of music. It is time I share my heart, without reservation, with others. There is no greater sense of achievement than when my music touches the audiences' hearts. I would guess that few people get to experience this wonderful feeling."

Ying said the only time she is nervous is when her father is watching her perform live.

"I was never nervous about my playing except when my father was in the audience. When he was there, I was sure to mess up," she said. "I am nervous at sound-check time — making sure that the monitor and house sound are set correctly is the hardest part of playing live — the actual performance

is easy, if the sound is good.

"In China, we would travel with our own sound engineers and equipment and I never had to worry about the technical aspects of performing. I am starting over here in America and not yet at the financial touring level where I can afford to bring engineers and sound equipment — every gig is a new experience in terms of technical sound challenges and that makes me nervous."

Ying said performing, as an independent artist in the United States, is a lot harder than in China.

"In China the company would arrange all aspects of a performance — rehearsal, travel, clothing, sound check and lodging. I just had to practice and show up to play. Here in America it is a totally different story," she said. "As an independent musician I must first work to advertise myself and secure performances. Then I have to hire band members, arrange rehearsal times, and arrange travel and lodging. It's more work than I ever imagined. I would prefer to just focus on composing and performing music. My husband helps out with a lot of things."

Ying will be performing Saturday evening at 7 p.m. on the main stage. For more information on Ying, visit her Web site at [www.yangying-music.com](http://www.yangying-music.com).

Editor Daniel Lai can be reached at 428-8173 or dlai@heritage.com.

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# 6th Annual Award Winning Riverfolk Music & Arts Festival



## RIVERFOLK MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

**AUGUST 4, 2007**

**Time: 11:00 AM - MIDNIGHT**

**Place: Carr Park, Manchester MI**

**Tickets: \$12 Advance \$15 at the gate.**

**Children 10 and under Free**

Festival-goers are promised a stellar lineup of acoustic entertainment, lively music and dance workshops, juried art fair, Kids' area workshops and more... Bring your own lawn chairs, kids, and coolers, but please keep the pets at home! Free parking and shuttle all day and evening.

## ULTIMATE DANCE PARTY & PIG ROAST

(Limited tickets available)

**FRIDAY AUG 3, 2007**

**Time: 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM**

**Place: Carr Park, Manchester MI**

**Dance Party Tickets: \$25.00**

**Pig Roast Tickets: \$10.00**

**www.riverfolkfestival.org**

**PH: (734) 428-7716**

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## THE PIG ROAST BUFFET

by Chef Chris & his Boogie Woogie Barbecue is \$10 extra. (food sold at the event w/cash bar).

## Advance Tickets are available at:

**In Manchester** - Coffee Mill Café, Manchester Market

(Festival Only), United Producers Inc. (Festival Only)

**In Ann Arbor** - Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors

Bureau, Oz's Music (Festival Only), Herb David Guitar

Studio (Festival Only)

**In Saline** - at The Drowsy Parrot (Festival Only)

**In Chelsea** - West of the Moon Gallery

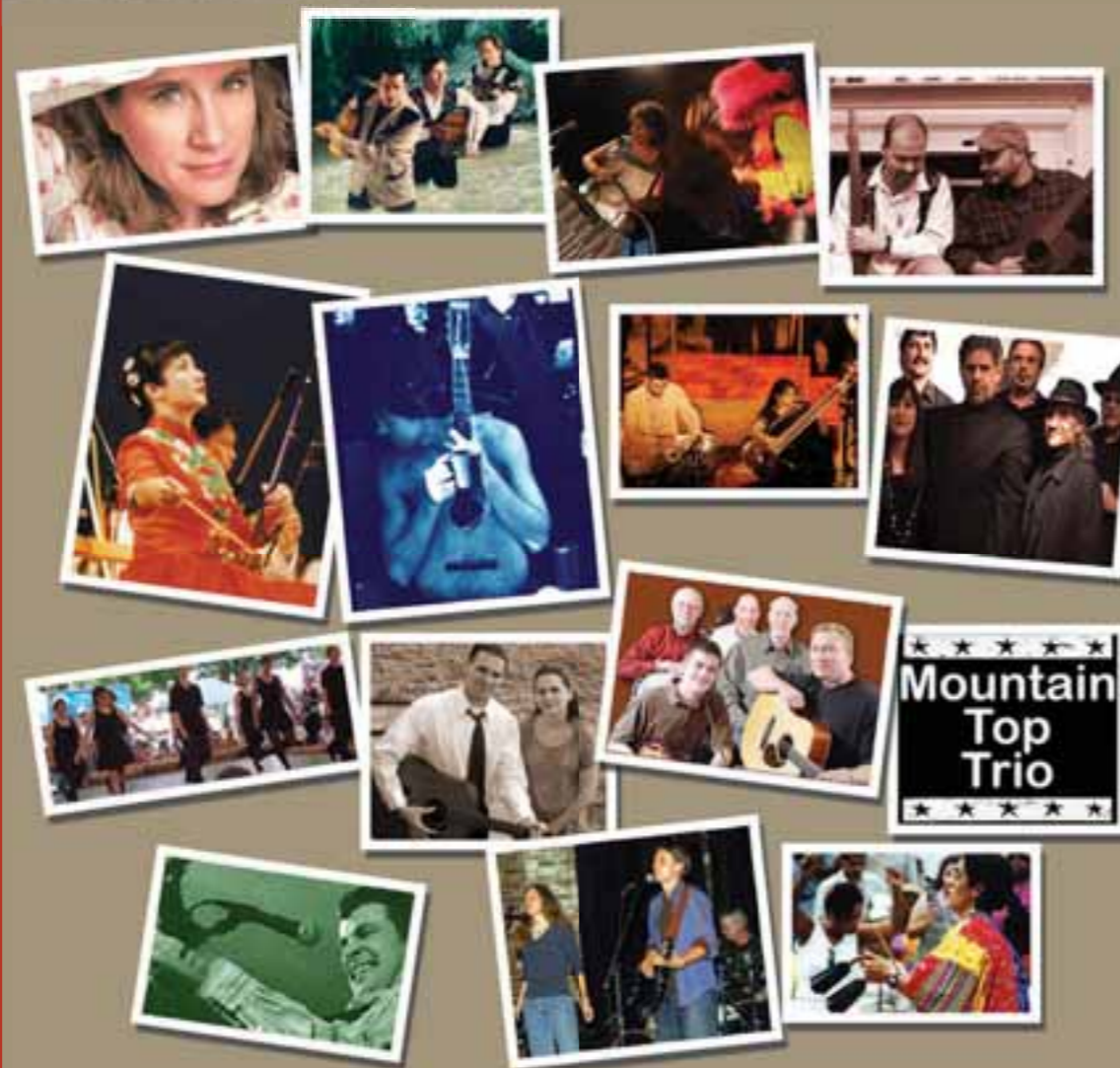
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**TOP ROW:** Susan Werner, George Bedard & the Kingpins, Swamperella, Lehto & Wright

**SECOND ROW:** Yang Ying, Paul Sprawl, Churchville & Banerjee, Global Village Ceremonial Band

**THIRD ROW:** Commonwealth Dance Collective, The Great Depressions, Lonesome County Bluegrass Band, Mountain Top Trio

**BOTTOM ROW:** Bill Bynum & Co., Billy King & Friends, Drummunity with Lori Fithian

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## A special thank you for services from

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## 2007 Riverfolk Schedule

**Ultimate Dance Party - Friday, August 3, 2007**

**Carr Park, Manchester, MI**

### Music and Dancing

7:30 - 11pm

Featuring George Bedard & the Kingpins & Swamperella

### Pig Roast

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Buffet by Chef Chris & his Boogie-Woogie Barbecue

### CASH BAR

(Reservations suggested, tickets also available at the gate)

**Afternoon Stages - Saturday, August 4, 2007**

|                                  | 11AM  | 12 PM   | 1PM   | 2PM  | 3PM   | 4PM   | 5PM |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|-----|
| <b>Traditional Tent</b>          |   | 11:30<br>Seniors<br>Line Dancing workshop<br>with Nia Aguirre | 12:30<br>Commonwealth<br>Dance Collective<br>Workshop | 1:30<br>Mountain Top Trio<br>& Lonesome County<br>Bluegrass      | 2:45<br>Bill Bynum & Company<br>and<br>Billy King and Friends | 4:00<br>Songwriting Workshop<br>with Susan Werner |     |
| <b>Main Stage</b>                |   | 12:00<br>The Global Village<br>Ceremonial Band                | 1:00<br>The Great<br>Depressions                      | 2:00<br>Paul Sprawl  | 3:00<br>The Commonwealth<br>Dance Collective                  | 4:00<br>Lonesome County<br>Bluegrass Band         |     |
| <b>New World Pavilion</b>        | 12:00<br>Traditional Celtic<br>music with<br>Lehto & Wright | 1:00<br>Indian music<br>with<br>Churchville & Banerjee        | 2:00<br>Far East meets<br>West with Yang Ying         | 3:00<br>World Funk with<br>The Global Village<br>Ceremonial Band | 4:00<br>Drum Jam<br>with Drummunity                           | 5:00<br>Festival Kids Parade                      |     |
| <b>Dulcimer Village Pavilion</b> |   | 12:00<br>Poetry Workshop<br>with<br>Willow Arlen              | 1:00<br>Dukimer Workshop<br>with<br>Wanda Degan       | 2:00<br>Poetry Workshop<br>with<br>Willow Arlen                  | 3:00<br>Dulcimer Workshop<br>with<br>Wanda Degan              |   |     |

## Evening Main Stage

|                   | 5:45PM                         | 6:00PM                 | 7:00PM            | 8:00PM               | 9:15PM              | 10:30PM                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Main Stage</b> | 5:45<br>Paul Sprawl<br>as M.C. | 6:00<br>Lehto & Wright | 7:00<br>Yang Ying | 8:00<br>Susan Werner | 9:15<br>Swamperella | 10:30<br>George Bedard<br>& the Kingpins |

12:00pm - 4:00pm

### Free Kids Area Activities

Art Projects, Musical Instrument Building, Bruno the Clown, Water Maze...

**Lunch/Dinner available in the Food Court**

## 2007 Riverfolk juried Artists:

Maureen Lochey, Christina R. Stark, Craig Toepfer, Augusta Simmons, Nancy Feldkamp, David Lindsey, Peter Lynch, Marne Evans, Dee Miles, Cheri Reiman, Sharon Miller, Susan Poulton, Jo Ellen Kladyk, Gary Rednour, Patti Vergiels, Annie O'Kane, Karen Douthit, Tim Douthit, Peter Lenahan, Jamie Anderson, Elaine Ang, Barbara Hollosy, Deborah Burch, Lee Krieger

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