



**He Guoheng**, known in the world of music as **Xiao He**, is one of the most creative and influential artists in the Beijing music scene. Besides his recordings and his solo and ensemble music performances, he is active in drama, writes incidental music, and is a creative force in the underground movie industry. He is also the head of **Maybe Horse**, a **Maybe Mars** sub-label dedicated to supporting and developing Beijing's and China's most innovative folk and ethnic musicians.

At the same time **Xiao He**, which is the alias he settled on for his folk and improvised music performances, played guitar, drum and accordion at River, a legendary old Beijing folk bar. Between these two projects **Xiao He** quickly developed a serious following among artists and music fans in the China music scene. In 2003, Modern Sky, China's largest independent label, released his first CD, a live recording called "**The Bird that Can Fly High Landed on the Cow that Can Run Fast**". Almost immediately this was received as one of the most important recordings in contemporary Chinese music.

Except for a very few special performances with **Glorious Pharmacy**, today **Xiao He** only plays solo performances. Calling these multi-faceted improvised performances "Free Folk", as much to express his anarchic playfulness as to suggest the total freedom which he approaches musical instrumentation, vocal performances and stylistic experimentation, he has become the inventor of a deeply weird and immensely mov-

ing style of music, mystical and surreal, which abruptly veers from the plaintive cries of Mongolian or Western Chinese music to the barbed and sometimes childlike humor of the avant garde. Complementing his stylistic creativity is a wholly unique way of playing acoustic guitar, loops, synthesizers and any other instrument that catches his fancy.

After his 2009 European tour, **Xiao He** released his second album, a double CD, with **Maybe Mars**. The album, "**Identity Performance**", consists of improvised live and studio performances and two separate CDs - one for the live shows and one for the studio performances.

His new album is a milestone for **Xiao He**. The live performances are based on 30 hours of recordings going back three years, which he has assembled as his "**Personal Symphony**". The live performance CD includes selected recording from six different shows and focuses on the irreversible and unrepeatable character of live performance. The other CD was recorded in his studio and focuses on the quality of the sounds and experimentation with the recording process. The studio recording juxtaposes thousands of ways of combining vocal sounds with the sound of his guitar as he wrestles with and reinterprets his understanding of Minimalism.

## » TITLE: The Performance of Identity

### TRACK LISTING:

- CD1
1. Saws Love You
  2. DJDJ Wants It
  3. Smooth-Tha-Tune
  4. MTV Play
  5. Record of Evaluation
  6. Doing It Homely Bouncily
  7. The Korean on The Plane
  8. Testing Benevolent Officials
  9. The Birthday of Friend Cie
  10. Carrefour Is Looking for You
  11. Eulogy of World Beauty
  12. Ascending the Moon for The 333rd Time
  13. Where Does This Go to

- CD2
1. Ku Wa Wa
  2. BiBi Bong
  3. Hei Hei
  4. A Wu
  5. Shui 18
  6. Jing Yang

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 40 MINS

RELEASE DATE: 03/07/2009

LABEL: Maybe Mars

FORMAT: CD

CATALOG NO.: Maybe 12.1

BARCODE: 9 787884 250431

FILE UNDER: Free Folk

FOR FANS OF: Henri Salvador, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Kan Mikami, Jandek, Changgeng Cheng, Teresa Teng

GO-TO TRACKS: CD1 4, 5  
CD2 5

### » Key Points & Activity

- 2007, participated in Italian Rome C.S.O.A Forte Prenestino "Chinetic the " activity and has made the special performance, etc.
- May 2009, tour in Europe



### Maybe Mars

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