

# Music lightens life in the dark

## Young pianist triumphs over hardships

By YU NAN  
China Daily staff

If you only had three days of light, how would you use your eyes? This is the question posed by the late Helen Keller, a blind American writer, in her book "Three Days to See."

Jin Yuanhui doesn't hesitate to answer: "The first day to see my parents, the second day to see my teachers and the last day to see the piano."

Jin's parents felt hopeless when they learned their first son was born blind and could never be cured.

They never expected he would master the piano during study in one of the best conservatories in China and then perform in 13 countries outside China.

Jin is one of only two sight-impaired piano students at the Middle School Affiliated to the Central Conservatory of Music.

He is also a member of the Arts Troupe of China Disabled Persons Federation, with which he has performed throughout China and the world.

"During my 18 years in darkness, my ears were my eyes, music was my way to sense the world and the piano was my closest friend," he said.

Big hands, long fingers, incredible hearing but blind eyes — those were the traits given to Jin at birth in 1984 in Qingdao in East China's Shandong Province.

He showed a high sensibility to music when he was only 2 years old.

"He could repeat most of the songs he listened or danced to only once," said Jin's father, Jin Yongxin.

At age 3, Jin touched the keys on his first instrument: a toy electronic organ that his uncle bought him.

A few days later, he was playing songs he heard on the radio.

"From that moment, I saw a ray of hope for my son and my family," his father said.

They saved up 800 yuan (US\$96) — a large amount at that time considering the family's monthly income was only 90 yuan (US\$10.8) — and

bought him an electronic organ. They also found him the best music teacher in the city for sight-impaired students: Lan Xiaoyi.

"Every weekday, I carried my son to his music class on the front of my bicycle and the organ on the back, rain or shine," Jin's father said.

Lan taught him the basics, but he considered it vital to his future success.

"She (the teacher) led me onto the right path in the music world," Jin said.

**Social recognition**  
Jin caught the public's attention in a citywide electronic organ contest when he was 6 years old.

The audience and the panel of judges were so moved by Jin's performance that they awarded him the "Exceptional Prize."

A second teacher, Li Feng, then taught Jin more complicated songs that Jin considered good preparation for his later performances outside China.

As the youngest member of the Disabled Persons' Arts Troupe of Shandong Province, Yuanhui played the piano on more than 40 occasions in Shandong between 1989 and 1990.

A year later he joined the Arts Troupe of China Disabled Persons' Federation and performed in Hong Kong, Austria, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Jin remembers clearly the day he performed in Austria.

The audience didn't expect a 7-year-old blind boy to play Johann Strauss's "Radetzky March" so brilliantly that they gave him a standing ovation even before he finished the piece.

In the following years, Jin performed in Japan, Republic of Korea and some Southeast Asian countries.

He also played in the Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled.

"As a blind person, I am lucky to go on so many exciting trips," he said. "But I do regret that I have wasted so much time on improving my playing skills."

In 1990, the China Disabled



Sound of music: Jin Yuanhui, a sight-impaired boy past decade.

Persons' Federation awarded him a piano for his contributions to the blind community.

Four years later, his parents sent him to Beijing for further study. But they had problems finding a teacher for him.

"No teachers at the middle school affiliated with the Central Conservatory of Music had any experience teaching the blind," Jin's father said.

But three professors there — Yang Jun, Pan Yifei and his wife Tai Er — did decide to help Jin.

"Honestly, I was not very confident when I first listened and saw him play," Tai said. "I should say that he played pretty well as a blind pianist. But compared with students of his age who could see, Jin was far behind."

She first taught him that music itself was full of emotion. And she encouraged him to listen to a series of CDs featuring

different melodies and rhythms and describing different scenes in nature like the sea, forests and mountains.

She tried to explain to Jin what they looked like.

"Little by little, the spirit of the music I played became so soft, vivid and forceful."

**Good ears a memory**  
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Jin could easily recognize the clicks on a piano and dissonant notes in

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After six years of hard work under her tutelage, Jin is one of the school's best students.

He was marked 91.6 — second to the highest mark of 93 — in his piano class last semester, which ended in late January.

He will graduate from the middle school in one year. He doesn't know whether he can go to college but remains optimistic.

"I believe the old Chinese saying: The cart will find its way 'round the hill when it gets there," he said. "And I have already gone over many hills in the dark."

Jin's first CD, "Sunshine," was published by POLOARTS Transmission Co, Ltd last year. Sixteen famous piano pieces, such as the Chinese "Autumn Moon on a Lake" (Ping Hu Qiu Yue) and Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11 composed by Liszt, were recorded.

On the sleeve of the CD, the producer wrote a sentence that may best present Jin's music: "This music is dedicated to all who never give up when faced with tough situations."

Before starting his singing career, Hu was a top male model in China, garnering awards in international competitions.

Because of his modeling background, Hu's show will include avant-garde costumes as well.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
Oil show: The Wanfung Art Gallery is showing creations from oil painters including: Liu Baomin, Xiao Peng, Li Chunyao, Xin Yi, Lao Dao, Xiao Se, Yin Kun and Han Xuejun.

Xiao Peng devotes his time to the realistic style of oil painting. Li Chunyao focuses his talent on modern urban life.

The exhibition will display China National Art Museum's collection of shadow show master, Liu Jilin. Liu is the outstanding master of the Beijing Xi genre of shadow show performance. The exhibits include the leather images he made himself and collected from the folk shadow show groups in the past as well as relics from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

**Our Beijing:** Three local artists will jointly give an oil painting exhibition themed on what Beijing means to them. The show is staged at the Yanhuang Art Museum.

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**Brothers' best:** Famous book binding and layout master Zhang Shouyi and his brother, china specialist Zhang Shouzhi, will share their extensive collections at a special show at Yanhuang Art Museum. Both are dedicated to the collection of folk articles in their spare time and the exhibition will display around 200 items including drinking utensils, chinaware and toys.

**Visual concert:** A visual and audio feast for the senses will feature songs by Chinese TV series based on well-received Dream of the Red Chamber novel "A All the musiciens."

The concert will consist of folk music pieces that feature a strong joyful mood such as "Lofty Mountain and Flowing River," "Dragon Boat," and "Full of Joy."

**Folk music:** New Year revelers can celebrate the Chinese festival to the tunes of traditional Chinese music.

**Local opera:** Local opera fans can also find performances of their favourite operas during the Spring Festival holidays.

The China Pingju Opera Theatre will perform for four nights one of its plays — "Third Sister Yang Goes to Court."

The opera tells the story of Third Sister Yang, who sought to avenge her elder sister's death. Yang suspects her brother-in-law Gao Zhanying killed her sister. The judge, who takes a bribe from Gao, settles the lawsuit by imposing a fine on Gao. But Yang continues suing to higher-level government. And after

**Pop concert:** Bing will ring in his birthday with a Valentine's Day

### TODAY'S RADIO

<b>FM 87.6 MHz (all stereo)</b>	<b>FM 90.0 MHz (all stereo)</b>
09:00 Traveller	12:00 Conversation
10:30 Movie Fans Club	15:00 Peking Opera excerpts
14:00 Radio Drama	16:30 Popular CD
16:30 Chinese Folk Music	18:00 Chinese folk music
	20:00 Into Music
<b>FM 97.4 (all stereo)</b>	<b>AM 603 kHz</b>
08:30 Music World	08:30 Reading Time
13:00 Pop Concert	10:00 Community & Life
14:00 Hello Taxi	12:00 Legal Times
16:30 Old Albums Review	18:00 Travel Guide
18:00 New Sound of Modern City	20:10 English pop songs
20:30 BBC Pop Music	

### TODAY'S TELEVISION

<b>CCTV-1 Channel 2</b>	23:38 Korean drama
11:20 Half of the Sky	<b>CCTV-9</b>
17:00 World Express	08:15 Chinese Cooking
19:00 News; Weather	09:15 Kungfu
20:06 31-part serial: Granary of the Country (27)	19:00 World Wide Watch
21:25 Documentary serial: Xinjiang (3)	20:00 Culture Express
<b>CCTV-2 Channel 8</b>	<b>BTV-1 Channel 6</b>
12:00 Businessmen	07:00 Good Morning Beijing
16:05 Arts Investment Guide	11:30 Beijing Express
19:35 China Financial Report	18:30 News; Weather
20:00 Life	19:42 Focus Today
20:40 Net Age	19:53 Serial: Dr Sun Yat-sen (10)
<b>CCTV-4 Channel 32</b>	22:36 Hello the World
07:05 Sports World	<b>BTV-2 Channel 21</b>
08:00 News 60 Minutes	12:05 Serial: Maids in Foreign Families (13)
10:35 Oriental Home	14:28 Chinese Music and Painting
11:20 Traveller	15:46 MTV
18:30 Focus Today	18:20 Top Chinese Music
19:30 Chinese Art	21:48 Live Show
20:30 Across the Straits	<b>BTV-3 Channel 27</b>
21:00 China News	18:00 Animation World
<b>CCTV-6 Channel 18</b>	18:30 Modern English
08:05 Chinese movie	19:30 Science Unlimited
12:03 Documentary: World Movies	20:05 Knowledge is Power
14:01 US movie	21:00 News
19:45 Chinese movie	<b>BTV-4 Channel 17</b>
21:35 Movie Industry	09:23 Movie
21:57 US movie	12:00 Serial: Sister Ma (235)
<b>CCTV-8 Channel 29</b>	13:05 Movie Salon
11:05 Animal World	18:00 630 Theatre
19:00 Around the World	19:10 Entertainment Live
21:48 Jiayi Drama	21:38 Serial: Dream's Come True (5, 6)

### BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

There was one other event in Paris during the world championships: the 3rd Transnational Teams. There were 74 entries. After 15 10-board matches played under the Swiss format (teams with the same score opposed each other), four qualified for the semifinals. These were won comfortably by a quartet from France and a team with players from Brazil and the United States.

The final was a one-sided affair, with Gabriel Chagas-Diogo Branner (Brazil), Geoff Hampson-Eddie Wold and Michael Passell-Michael Seamon (U.S.) winning 120-49.

In this deal from the final, Wold's two-spade cue-bid announced a maximum pass with at least three-card heart support. Then, when his partner showed diamond values, Wold put the contract into the unbeatable three no-trump.

West led the club four, won with declarer's 10. Wold cashed two hearts ending in the dummy, then ran the club nine to West's jack. As he was out of hearts, whichever suit West led now would give South his ninth trick. West tried the diamond king. Wold won with dummy's ace and played a second diamond. East went in with the queen and returned a spade. Wold claimed the remainder for an overtrick when his jack brought out the ace.

At the other table, North was in four hearts. This can be beaten if the defenders are passive. For example, after a spade lead to the jack and ace, West hits with either a trump or spade. However, the contract was allowed to succeed, so Wold's good decisions didn't gain points. Perhaps they would have avoided a loss, though, if Hampson had failed in four hearts.

North			
♠	6	♠	4
♥	A K Q J 3	♥	A 10 6 2
♦	A 10 6 2	♦	9 7 3
West			
♠	A 10 9 5 2	♠	4 3
♥	8 6	♥	9 7 5
♦	K 5	♦	Q 9 8 4 3
♣	K J 8 4	♣	6 5
South			
♠	K J 8 7	♠	10 4 2
♥	10 4 2	♥	J 7
♦	A Q 10 2	♦	
Dealer: East			
Vulnerable: North-South			
South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♣ 4			

### WHAT'S ON

#### STAGE

**Keep it in the air:** The Chaoyang Theatre is one of the Beijing theatres to present acrobatics all year round.

Top acrobatic artists invited from all over the country perform for Chinese and foreign tourists. The programme features trick cycling, leaping through hoops and Chinese magic tricks. Some of the artists have won prizes in international competitions.

**Time:** 7:15 pm, daily  
**Place:** 36, Dongshanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District  
**Tel:** 6507-2421, 6507-1818

**Joyful jugglers:** The China Acrobatic Troupe is staging a nightly variety show at the Tiandi Theatre, where the seemingly impossible is made real.

Spinning plates, juggling umbrellas, contortionists and acrobats fill the air. Integrating superlative juggling, unicycling, balancing and jumping through hoops with the finest ancient Chinese dancing, the star-studded cast will amaze.

**Time:** 7:15 pm, daily  
**Place:** 10 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
**Tel:** 6502-3984

**Opera excerpts:** The Liyuan Theatre presents traditional Peking Opera excerpts specially packaged in short programmes for foreign audiences in the original style.

The theatre revives the ambience of Old Beijing by setting up Ming-style tables that enable guests to sample snacks during performances.

With an explanation in English, the performances are from the Beijing Peking Opera Theatre.

**Time:** 7:30 pm, nightly  
**Place:** Qianmen Hotel, 175, Yong'an Lu, Xuanwu District  
**Tel:** 6301-6688 ext 8867

**Moscow ballet:** The Moscow Festival Ballet will bring Tchaikovsky's ballets to the Beijing audience.

Since its creation, the company has performed more than 850 times during its 46 tours around the world.

The company's dancers are all stars from some of the top theatres in Russia, such as the Kremlin Ballet Theatre, and the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Theatre Ballet.

The company will stage "Swan Lake" on the first three evenings, and "The Sleeping Beauty" on the last.

**Time:** 7:15 pm, February 7-10  
**Place:** Beizhan Theatre, 135 Xiwai Dajie, Xicheng District  
**Tel:** 6590-3377, 6590-3737

**First China tour for Moscow artists:** The Moscow State Song and Dance Theatre will make its first tour of China in mid-February to perform in both modern and classical styles.

The troupe has integrated European modern style with the Russian classical style.

The theatre's Beijing show will be made up of two parts. The first "You are Welcome Good People!" is permeated with strong Russian traditional customs. The theme centres on music, songs and compositions based on the folk art of different Russian regions. Real events, typical scenes of folk trades and the rich spiritual world of Russians — are all revealed as the show progresses.

The second section, "We Present Our Love to You," sees the use of modern rhythms and contrasts with the first part.

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 13-17  
**Place:** Beizhan Theatre, 135, Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District  
**Tel:** 6567-5049, 6567-5149, 6567-5930

**Original dance drama:** After its successful debut last December, Beijing's first original dance drama will again be staged by performers from the Beijing Song and Dance Ensemble.

The dance play tells the tale of a sad love story set to a famous event in history — the burning of Yuanmingyuan Garden by the eight-power allied forces.

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 12-18  
**Place:** Poly Theatre, on northeast corner of the Dongsi Shitiao Viaduct  
**Tel:** 6500-1188 ext 5176

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careful investigation, it turns out that Gao, who committed adultery with two loose women, killed his wife. He is then sentenced to death.

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 15-18  
**Place:** China Pingju Opera Theatre, 19 Zouye 4, Xiluyuan, Fengtai District  
**Tel:** 8720-8367

#### CONCERTS

**Musical epic:** "The East is Red" is set to be staged. Singers from the Philharmonic Chorus under the Chinese Musician's Association will sing dozens of songs from the epic, including "Chairman Mao's Glory," "No Communist Party, No New China" and "Safeguarding the Yellow River."

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 7  
**Place:** Concert hall of the National Library of China  
**Tel:** 6848-5462, 6841-9220

**Symphonic concert:** The China Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a Spring Festival concert.

The celebratory concert will feature Chinese composer Du Shingxin's "Festival Overture," Shostakovich's "Symphony No 1 in F minor," and Rachmaninov's "Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor."

The concert will be performed under the baton of the orchestra's young conductor Yang Yang. And pianist Kong Xiangdong will be invited to play the piano solo part.

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 8  
**Place:** Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District  
**Tel:** 6559-8285

**Folk music:** New Year revelers can celebrate the Chinese festival to the tunes of traditional Chinese music.

The concert will consist of folk music pieces that feature a strong joyful mood such as "Lofty Mountain and Flowing River," "Dragon Boat," and "Full of Joy."

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 10  
**Place:** Concert Hall of the National Library of China  
**Tel:** 6848-5462, 6841-9220

**Strauss music:** A concert featuring the music created by the Strauss family will include pieces such as "Tales from the Vienna Woods," "Tritsch-Tratsch Polka," "Pizzicato Polka," "Emperor Waltz," "Blue Danube," "Unter Donner und Blitz," and "Domestic Symphony."

**Time:** 7:30 pm, February 12

**Place:** Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District  
**Tel:** 6559-8285

**Festive concert:** The Symphony Orchestra of the Ballet Theatre via Opera and biggest festival in Beijing music to the orchestra.

The orchestra will play famous pieces, including symphonic "Prelude," and "Spring Festival Time: 7:30 pm, Feb. 6 of Spring."  
**Place:** Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District  
**Tel:** 6559-8285

**Children's concert:** The Beijing Children's Orchestra will perform on the occasion of the Chinese lunar New Year.

The children's concert will include "Spring Festival fly Lovers," selections of the "Jade," and White-Haired Girl opera "The Time: 2:30 pm, Feb. 13  
**Place:** Concert Hall of the National Library of China  
**Tel:** 6848-5462, 6841-9220

**Love songs:** A concert of love songs will help set the mood for the Philharmonic Chorus of the Chinese Musician's Association will perform songs "Moonlight," and "In the Silver Time: 10:30 pm, Feb. 14  
**Place:** Grand Theatre of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities  
**Tel:** 6602-2530, 6602-2530

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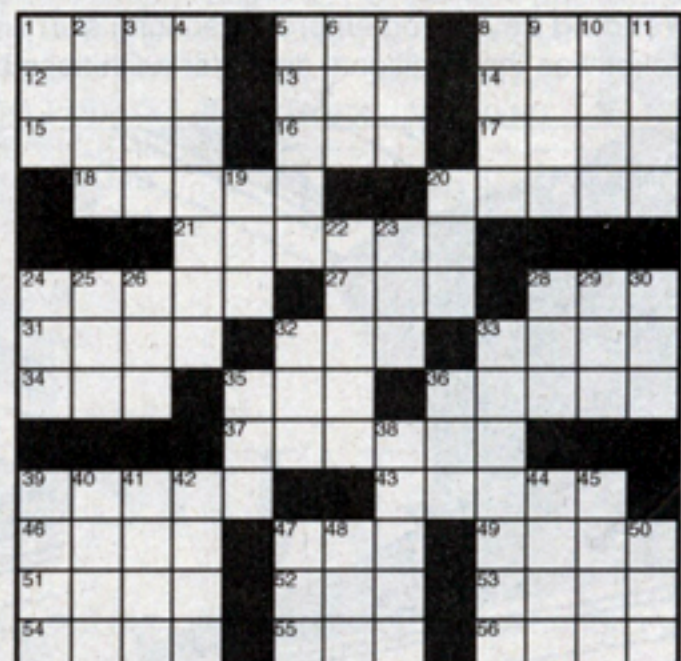
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**Pop concert:** Bing will ring in his birthday with a Valentine's Day

### CROSSWORD (No 6512)

#### ACROSS

- 1 Twinge
- 5 Deviate
- 8 Door handle
- 12 Cleveland's state
- 13 Oklahoma town
- 14 Ireland
- 15 Actor Carvey
- 16 Reagan nickname
- 17 — out (scraped by with)
- 18 Made hay
- 20 Bread spreads
- 21 Demand
- 24 Played (with)
- 27 Baseball club
- 28 Crumple (up)
- 31 Hall-of-Famer
- 32 Slaughter
- 32 123-45-6789, e.g.
- 33 Yield
- 34 Dollar dispenser
- 35 Part of a sock
- 36 Ear parts
- 37 Like some treasure
- 39 Type of canoe
- 43 Evaluated
- 46 Stack
- 47 Luau attire
- 49 Pantyhose shade
- 51 Boats like Noah's
- 52 Everybody
- 53 Pillow cover
- 54 Race-winning



#### Solution to No 6511

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