

## Where Magazine interview with Xie Tian Xiao of XTX ( 2010 )

by John Dellenger

**Xie, I encourage you to feel comfortable replying to each answer as long as you like.**

希望你**喜欢并愿意**回答我所问的**每个问题**。

**Lead Vocal / Guitar – Xie Tian Xiao**

主唱/吉他手-谢天笑

**Bass – Song Wei**

贝司手-宋伟

**Drums – Han Guan**

鼓手-韩光

**Rhythm Guitar – Li Zhao**

节奏吉他手-李昭

**In 1994, Xie Tian Xiao formed his first band, Hunters of the Cloth (出家的猎人 / Chujia de Lieren).**

**In 1997, he founded the band Cold Blooded Animal.** 1994年1994年, 谢天笑组建了**他的第一个乐队,出家的猎人**。

1997年, 组建新乐队冷血动物。

**2009 Xie Tian Xiao**

**2009谢天笑**

**J : Xie, you where born in Bashan District, Zibo City, Shandong Province?**

谢天笑, 你出生于山东省,淄博市.博山区是吗?

**X ; Yes.**

是

J : What was it like growing up as a boy in Zibo City?

成长在淄博，能告诉我你的一些成长经历吗？

X: I've been in Beijing since I was 18 years old. My parents were workers and my grandfather was a drummer in Beijing Peking Troupe. I got a lot of opportunity to watch rehearsals. At that time I came to watch the famous traditional musician Ms. Hu Yan Ze who was nurtured there. I find it is more interesting to be a traditional musician. My uncle at the time was working in my grandfather's Peking Opera Troupe. One day, he cannot go to the opera Diao Qin Gui performance because he is sick. Others recommended me to join troupe. That was my first experience, which brought me close to learning my lines in Peking Opera tone.

18岁的时候我来到了北京，父母都是工人，老爷是京剧团的鼓手，这让我有个很多机会到文化馆看排练，当时唱名歌很有名的歌手吴燕哲也就出自那里，其实觉得名歌比较有意思。有一回舅舅在老爷的剧团要唱吊金龟，因为生病不能去唱，大家就推荐我去唱，也就接触了不少京剧，背词，唱腔。

J : At nine you your parents entered you into Beijing opera. How was that experience for you? Was it of great interest? Do you feel any of its influence has carried over to your creativity in composing music?

9岁的时候你的家长让你去学京剧，对于那段经历，你有一些特殊的感受吗？你觉得这段经历对你以后的创作是否有带来影响？

X: I did not find that it influenced me a lot before. But, I find it really does influence me now. Because it is quite similar to my intensity. I should always forget myself absolutely on stage. Involve myself completely to create different kinds of arts. 以前觉得这段经历对自己没影响，但现在觉得还是有影响的。其实都有相似之处，在舞台上忘记自己，完全的投入，创造不同的艺术。

J : I have been able to translate a few of your songs. Only One Wish, Sunflower, and The End is on the Upstream. I must say it is quite refreshing to read poetic rock - n -roll lyrics. How do you feel you have progressed over the last 20 years as a writer?

我有翻译过你的一些歌,例如只许一个愿望,向日葵,我想说的是诗歌类的摇滚歌词一定很刺激,对于过去20年作为一个歌词创作人,有了什么样的进步?

X: I think there are differences between the words of lyrics and poetry. Lyric are innovate and have rhythm.

其实歌词和诗歌不一样,诗歌是诗,歌词符合旋律且富有诗意。

J : What do you feel has contributed to some of your biggest influences?

你觉得对自己影响最大的是什么?

X : I think it is Bob Marley. I don't like reggae music exactly. But, I do love Bob Marley. I find reggae music to be boring. I like to make reggae in Chinese style. But, I do not want to create any music which is similar with Bob's. It's challenging. His music always makes me feel inspired. He does influence me. But, I do want to combine different art styles. For example, I combine reggae with the Chinese instrument guzheng. My new album will be released on December 24th.

Bob Marley. 其实我本人不喜欢Reggae 音乐, 我只喜欢Bob Marley. 我不会一直做reggae 音乐, 因为我甚至觉得无聊。我要做有中国特色的reggae.我很喜欢Bob.但又不愿意和他做类似的东西, 这是一种挑战, 只有这样才有更大的超越。既要经受一个人的影响, 还要结合不同的艺术种类, 比如这次做的将古筝和reggae相结合, 24号即将要发行。

J: Your inspiration for writing?

你写歌的灵感来源于哪里 ？

X: It comes from life. How I see the world from my eyes. That it includes the Chinese culture and the education in which one does not receive in school. But, the kind of attitude that life conveys.

是生活，眼里的世界是什么，就是什么。这中间更多的是中国文化背景和教育，这种教育不是指上学，而是指潜移默化的对人生的态度。

J: How about the new album that you and the band just recorded?

Could you tell me more about it? The process of this album going into the recording studio. Was it different then the last? How has it progressed? Your approach / attitude? Did you bring more musicians in for this album? Or, did you only stick with the band members Li Ming, Wu Rui, and Li Zhao?

对于已在音棚里录制的新唱片进展如何？会和之前的作品不同吗？你抱有怎样的态度和期许？新唱片中有没有加入一些新的音乐人，还是继续和李明，吴瑞合作？

X : During the recordings it has been different than from the music I have made before. Because it combines reggae with guzheng. I am in charge of directing the vocals. Wang Lei who plays bass is my good friend since our childhood. He has recorded with Wang Feng. Xu Xun will be the drummer this time who was formerly with the Zi Yue band. I feel so honored to cooperate with them.

在录，和之前不同的是把古筝和Reggae相结合。这次我将担任制作人和主唱，贝司手是王磊，从小和我一起长大的朋友，之前一直帮汪峰录制的贝司手，我很荣幸能和他有合作。还有一位鼓手陆勋，之前是子曰乐队的。

很荣幸能跟他们一起合作。

J ;What is your favorite track from the new album? What is the title of the album?

And how did you come about this these names?

从第一张唱片到现在哪张唱片是你自己最喜欢的？ 唱片名是什么？

唱片名的来历是什么？

X: I cannot tell which one is my favorite. I seems all the tracks leaves me a deep impression. All the works seems like my little kid. This time the name of the album will be **Guzheng Reggae**. I wanted to make it in Chinese style.

说不上哪张是最喜欢的，每张都有自己深刻的记忆，就像每一个都是自己的孩子。唱片名为古筝Reggae， 我想做中国特色的Reggae。

J: I know that you have worked on soundtracks for film such as “ Vietnamese Girl”.

How do you like the experience with working with creating sound tracks for film?

How is your approach for entering the studio for sound track work?

我知道你有为电影越南女孩做过音乐，对于为电影音乐,能讲述一下你做电影音乐的经历吗?是什么使你开始制作电影音乐？

X: I have loved movie since I was a child. My dad brings me to watch the movies quite often. I created the sound tracks of that film when I was approximately 21years old. My friend was an actor in the movie and I wrote music for them. My friend recommended me at that time. The director asked for an extended compilation after then.

自己很小就喜欢电影，父亲也经常带我去看电影，做那本电影音乐时还很小大约21岁，当时朋友在电影里演一个角色，我自己写了一些音乐，朋友推荐给导演，后来导演要求做了一些扩展。

J : On paper the China copyright laws seem quite sound. In 2000, the first release by your former band the Bloody Animals did quite well. Selling 150,000 tapes, 20,000 cds in China. In Taiwan another 5,000 cds. I assume you must have estimated that there was some pirating during this time. Is there anything that you have learned in the business over the years that might be able to better protect your new releases?

在中国唱片版权法控制很严格，你和你的前乐队做的第一张专集冷血动物大卖，共销售150,000张，20,000张在中国，5000张在台湾。这些年的经历是否有让你学到一些在商业运作中怎样保护自己的新发行的唱片？

X : To be honest China copyright laws is not exact, and not strict enough.

Musicians are not being protected enough by the laws.

I released a lot of tapes before. But, I did not get the proper revenue. After this experience, I focused more on my contracts. I did not know anything at that moment. I only considered releasing an album. Especially, in 1999/2000. I feel so proud to release one album at that time. I so desired success, and lost a lot actually. I am not complaining now. This is the truth.

The music industry needs an overall fair environment.

其实中国的版权法不健全，不严格。音乐人没有得到法律保护，之前出的唱片很大一部分还是磁带，连最基本的版税都没拿到。经过这些经历，现在会很注意合同。当时完全不懂，只要能签约就行。99年/2000年的时候出唱片已经是很了不得的事了，当时被成功冲混了头脑，无意识中失去了很多。当然我不是抱怨，我只是说明事实，因为这需要一个公平的环境。

J: How was your first trip to the states and New York? Was it what you expected?

对于你的第一次美国，纽约之行，有什么体会？和自己期望中的一样吗？

X: I went to America for one year. I have been to New York. Texas, LA, and San Francisco. I think the USA is interesting, and crazy. It seems like the action in a movie. I stayed in Los Angeles a couple of days. But, I could not endure it anymore. Most Americans are nice people. But, still a small part of Americans are hypocritical. The United States has lot of goods things. But, it is different if you live there. For example; I cannot accept that they sometimes treat a dog better than humans. I don't like this personally.

我在美国呆了一年，去过纽约，德克萨斯，落衫机，San Francisco.

觉得美国很好玩，很疯狂就像美国电影里的一样。在落衫机居住过一段时间，但是长期在那

里居住我就受不了了，大部分的美国人都是善良的，小部分人有些伪善。美国有些方面很好，但生活就是两回事，比如对狗比对人好，我本人不是很喜欢。

Xie Tian Xiao and the Bloody Animal were invited to play at SXSW in Austin, Texas in 2001, and 2002. . The reviews were high. How was that experience? What did you learn, or feel was the experience from playing an American crowd like SXSW? 谢天笑和他的乐队冷血动物2001年和2002年连续两年被邀请去美国德克萨斯州的休斯顿。

J: How was touring America in those days? Was it date after date? How long was the tour and what areas did you find the most impressive for you? Are there any tracks that have been influenced from your American experience?

这些日子在美国循环演唱怎样，行程是否很紧？行程大约有多久，哪些地方给你们留下的影响最深刻？有没有做一张碟是因为受在美国经历的影响？

X : I started to live in America in 2001. We had a tour and the schedule was not so tight. Of course New York left me with a deep impression at that time. I started to put guzheng into reggae music. It feels right to reintroduce. Now, I put it into rock.

行程不算太紧，当然纽约影响最深，其实在美国的生活，我有尝试把古筝和Reggae相结合，这些都是压箱底的东西，现在我把它们重新拿出来做了。

J : I assume you spent some time in Los Angeles. Did you play the Whisky Bar? Rub elbows with any other musicians while in LA?

我想你应该在洛杉矶呆过一段时间，有没有去过威士忌酒吧？有没有在洛杉矶擦肩而过一些音乐人？

X : I knew of the Whisky Bar. But, I have never been there. But, the blacks tapping to guitar in LA I liked.

我知道威士忌酒吧，但没有去过。在美国留下影响深刻的是黑人弹着吉他，穿着旱冰鞋，

J: You hear of the success stories of some members that make up rock bands. For their early careers, to the moment they made it big. The success story for me seems to be the fact that you were able to take an undesirable thing and turn it into something good. Meaning when you were approximately 18 when you were arrested for stealing bicycles and given juvenile house arrest for 6 months. At which time you turned it around by learning to play guitar. How was that experience for you? Was it life changing?

你一定有听到过一些成功的摇滚乐队成员的经历，在他们的事业的早期的某个时刻总是不太如意，对于我来说一个很好的例子是你是怎样将不可得到的东西转变成美好的东西，我的意思在你大约 18 岁的时候曾经有因为偷自行车被拘留 6 个月。你是从什么时候开始转学吉他，那时有些什么样的经历？之后的生活有所改变了是吗？

X: It happened when I was 15 years old actually. Four friends of mine stole spare machine parts at my father's factory. They tried to sell out of big quantity. The parts were actually very valuable and the factory eventually called the policemen. Two of my friends were caught, and another two fled the scene and came to me. The policeman asked me if I saw them. I covered for them at my friend's house. I did not join them because my leg was hurt at that moment. But, I did not tell the truth. Two of the friends that I had covered were watching a movie one day. They were recognized by the policeman. They confessed that I covered for them. I was judged to be supervised at home, all day; for 3 months. That means I have to stay with my parents and ask for a leave with policeman. Even, if I make a little step out of my parent's home.

During that time I started to know guitar. I find the guitar to sound sad. That's the reason I started to play.

准确的说应该发生在 15 岁，当时是 4 个朋友偷父亲工厂的零部件，偷了好几次，数量很多，然后拿去卖，因为部件价值教高，工厂报了警。其中 2 个朋友被抓了，2 个朋友逃跑了，来找我，当时我的腿正好受伤所以没有参与，但当警察来询问的时候，我说不知道，但是我把 2 个朋友藏在我的好朋友家里了。结果他们在有一次出去看电影壳着瓜子被警察抓了，他们告诉警察是我把他们藏起来的。我被判了 3 个月监视居住，这三个月我一直呆在家里，出去要有家长陪同，且要跟家长请假。

之前没有接触过吉他，那段时间开始接触吉他，吉他发出的声音是那么的伤感，从那时候开始学的吉他。



J : Ok, back to the future. I am really excited about the new album and what fans have to look forward to in your new music. Do you feel that this album has gone in a new direction lyrically and instrumentally?

回到讨论未来，我为你们新唱片的发行以及歌迷们期待已久的好音乐而感到激动，你觉得本张碟在词曲制作和配乐方面有走向一个新方向吗？

X : Not completely. This time it will be emphasize on guzhen. I purposely avoid all kinds of similarities with Bob Marley's music. It does not mean that my music style is going to change towards reggae. This is my ideology about music. I hope to create a collection of Chinese style reggae that combines pipa and yangqin. But, it does not mean that I will keep making this sort of music.

不完全是。

这次主要强调了古筝，有意识避免和BOB MARLEY相似的地方。这不是一种转型，而代表一种对音乐的理想。我希望能做一个中式音乐和reggae的系列，到时候可能还会假如琵琶，扬琴与Reggae的结合，但不代表会一直做这样的音乐。

J : Are all the tracks in Chinese this go around?

所有的唱片在国内被人接受吗？

X: It will only be accepted by some people. I only want more people to know this kind of music exists. To give them one more choice or opportunity to listen to my style. Listeners have their right to choose. I trust my reggae approach will be accepted openly.

有部分人接受，我做的这种音乐只是希望让观众知道有这样一种音乐，有一种选择，有机会听到，有自己选择的权利。相信Reggae，很容易被接受。

J : What should fans expect as the release date?

歌迷们都很期待新专集的发行，新专集将于什么时候发行？

X : December 24th , Beijing.

12月24日在北京。

J : Is a tour in China planned?

是否已经计划在中国内的循环演唱?

X : 明年一定会有, 但地方暂时还未确定。

Maybe next year. The cities are not decided yet.

J: I personally would very much enjoy seeing you guys tour the states again. How do you feel about going back to America, or touring the world?

作为我个人我很期待能看到你们在美国的循环演唱, 有没有想过重返美国或者世界循环演唱. ?

X: I expect it whole heartily, and I am always working hard in that direction. We might be on tour in the USA next year. We would like to do some performance in Chinese style. Which is completely different from the USA. I think it is the right time to do it. When I argue with my wife. I am always threatening her that I am going back to Shandong. Or, that I am going to the America.

我非常期待, 而且一直朝着这个方向在努力, 明年可能会有计划在美国

做演唱, 做有中国特色的, 和美国不一样的东西, 我想这是一个最好的候

其实我跟妻子吵架的时候常常会威胁她: 要么我就回山东, 要么我句去

美国。

J : The future looks bright for Xie and the crew. I look forward to seeing another brilliant show from what I feel is one of China's tightest rock -n - roll bands.

祝福谢天笑和他的乐队光明的未来, 我很期待他们的下一场精彩的演唱,你们是中国摇滚乐队中的稀品. ?



Great musician and friend. Always hospitable even after a sweaty hot gig. XTX performs 100% all the time. Good luck guys. I hope a tour of the states happens again soon.