

CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, September 18th, 2025, 19:30 – 21:00

Sonic Gold: Exiled Russian and Jewish Musicians in Shanghai's Golden Age of Music and Nightlife, 1920s-1940s

Andrew Field

Professor of History at Duke Kunshan University

Author of [Rocking China](#) (2023)

Director of [A Century of Jazz in Shanghai](#) (2021)

Co-Author of [Shanghai Nightscapes](#) (2015)

Co-Director of [Down: Indie Rock in the PRC](#) (2012)



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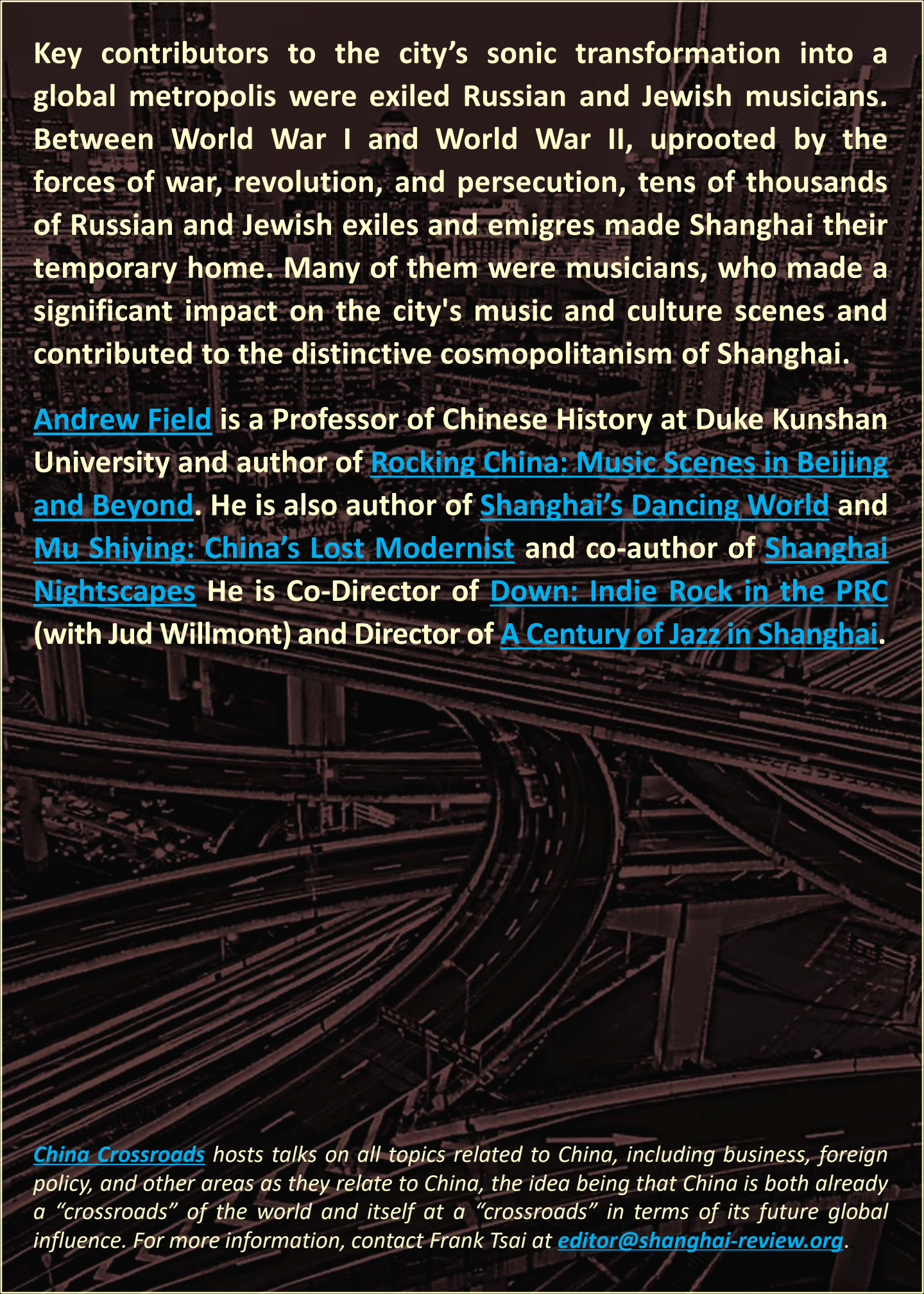
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Key contributors to the city's sonic transformation into a global metropolis were exiled Russian and Jewish musicians. Between World War I and World War II, uprooted by the forces of war, revolution, and persecution, tens of thousands of Russian and Jewish exiles and emigres made Shanghai their temporary home. Many of them were musicians, who made a significant impact on the city's music and culture scenes and contributed to the distinctive cosmopolitanism of Shanghai.

[Andrew Field](#) is a Professor of Chinese History at Duke Kunshan University and author of [Rocking China: Music Scenes in Beijing and Beyond](#). He is also author of [Shanghai's Dancing World](#) and [Mu Shiyong: China's Lost Modernist](#) and co-author of [Shanghai Nightscapes](#) He is Co-Director of [Down: Indie Rock in the PRC](#) (with Jud Willmont) and Director of [A Century of Jazz in Shanghai](#).

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.