

CHINA CROSSROADS

Monday, December 22nd, 2025, 19:30 – 21:00

A Tale of Two Foreign Musicians in the Shanghai Scene: Somewhere between Reality and the Dream

Chad Higgenbottom

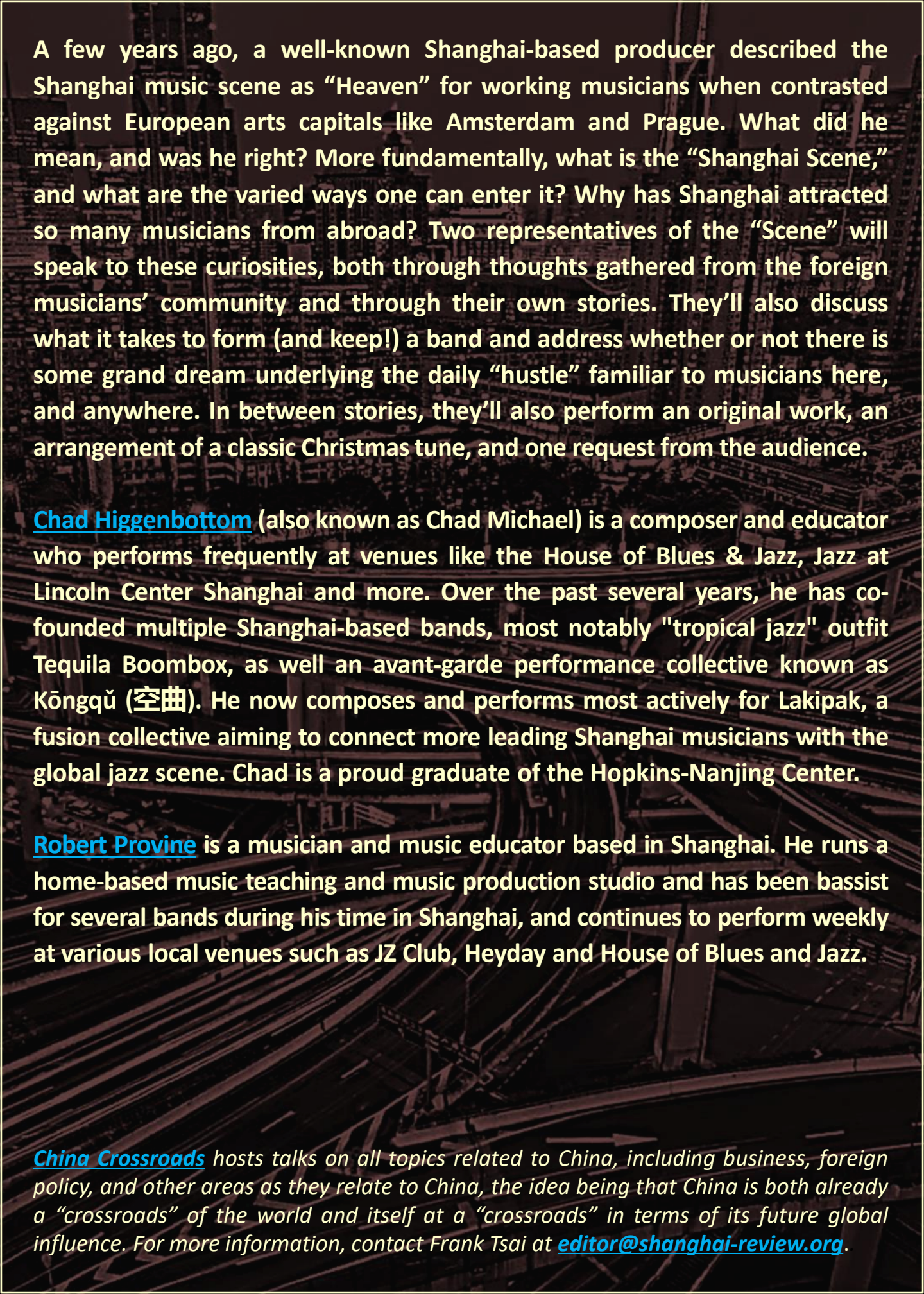
Pianist and Composer

Robert Provine

Bassist and Producer

WhiteSpace | Jianing Building 5F | 500 Yanan Xi Lu
150rmb admission with drink | FREE for members
Scan to RSVP or email editor@shanghai-review.org





A few years ago, a well-known Shanghai-based producer described the Shanghai music scene as “Heaven” for working musicians when contrasted against European arts capitals like Amsterdam and Prague. What did he mean, and was he right? More fundamentally, what is the “Shanghai Scene,” and what are the varied ways one can enter it? Why has Shanghai attracted so many musicians from abroad? Two representatives of the “Scene” will speak to these curiosities, both through thoughts gathered from the foreign musicians’ community and through their own stories. They’ll also discuss what it takes to form (and keep!) a band and address whether or not there is some grand dream underlying the daily “hustle” familiar to musicians here, and anywhere. In between stories, they’ll also perform an original work, an arrangement of a classic Christmas tune, and one request from the audience.

Chad Higgenbottom (also known as Chad Michael) is a composer and educator who performs frequently at venues like the House of Blues & Jazz, Jazz at Lincoln Center Shanghai and more. Over the past several years, he has co-founded multiple Shanghai-based bands, most notably "tropical jazz" outfit Tequila Boombox, as well an avant-garde performance collective known as Kōngqǔ (空曲). He now composes and performs most actively for Lakipak, a fusion collective aiming to connect more leading Shanghai musicians with the global jazz scene. Chad is a proud graduate of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center.

Robert Provine is a musician and music educator based in Shanghai. He runs a home-based music teaching and music production studio and has been bassist for several bands during his time in Shanghai, and continues to perform weekly at various local venues such as JZ Club, Heyday and House of Blues and Jazz.

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.