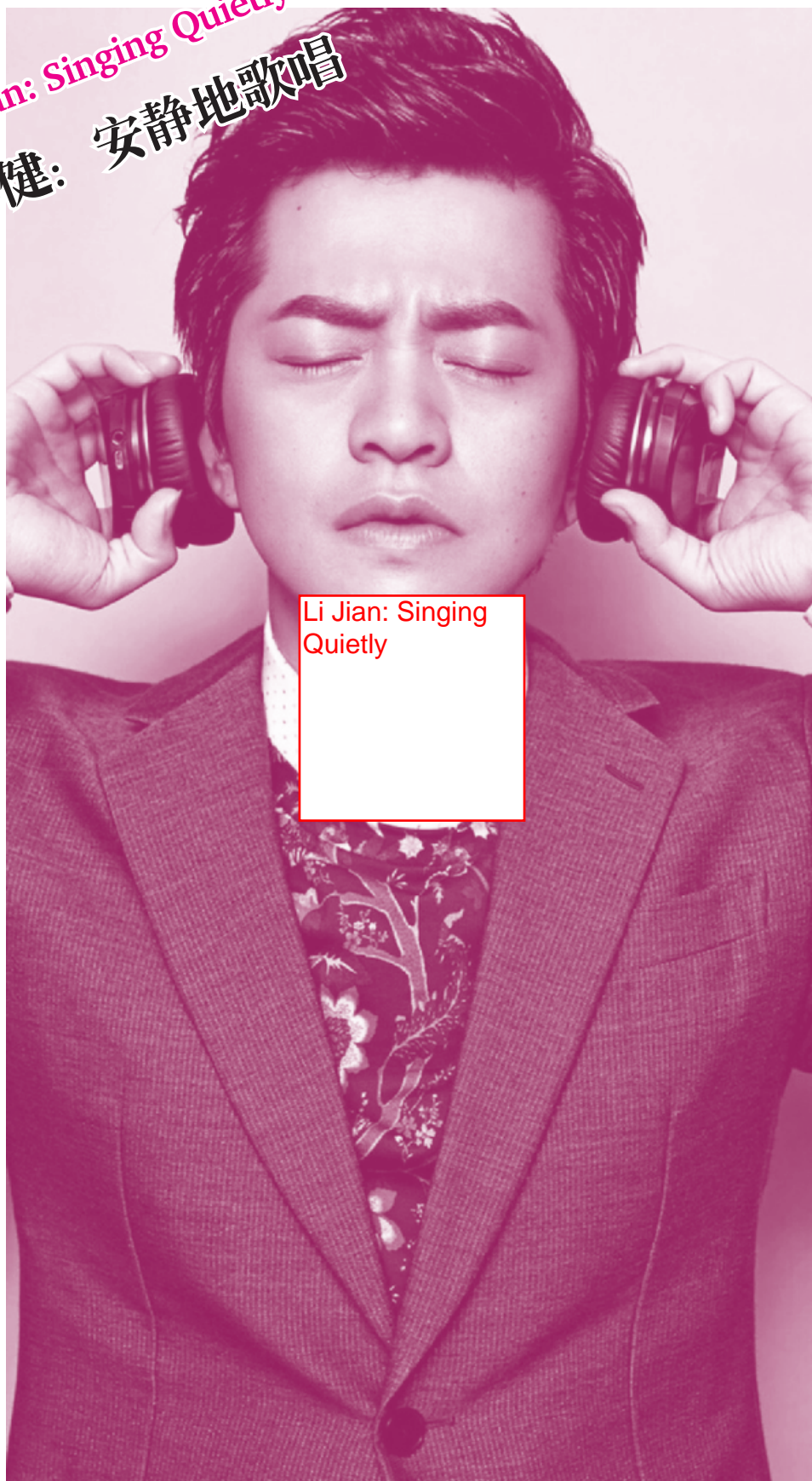
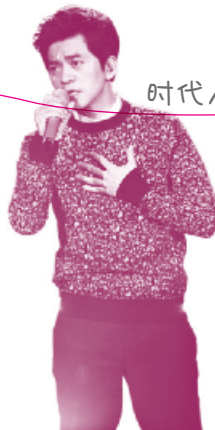


Li Jian: Singing Quietly
李健: 安静地歌唱



Li Jian: Singing
Quietly



They say that good wine needs no bush, but a TV show means that people now know Li Jian is a fine wine indeed.

On a reality show, the 40-year-old singer-songwriter has been praised for his singing ability and, unexpectedly, for his sense of humor.

Born in Harbin, Li Jian has a clear and smooth voice, which he inherited from his Peking Opera singer father. And his shy nature and poetic lyrics have also given him the nickname "Poetic Musician".

"In my younger days, music was like therapy," he told *China Daily*.

Music was also the bridge that got him into Tsinghua University. A self-taught guitarist, Li won a number of singing competitions. He was admitted thanks to Tsinghua's plan to recruit students with musical talent.

In the 1990s, so-called "campus ballads" were popular in China. *Shuimu Nianhua*, a group that Li formed with another Tsinghua student called Lu Gengxu, was one of the best groups of the type.

But the pair went their separate ways in 2002. Li was tired of doing commercial performances.

Afterward, Li released several albums on his own. They were all in his own musical style, "soft and warm, down-to-earth and intimate", commented China Radio International.

Unlike some other musicians who release their songs quickly, Li took his time to write heartfelt music.

"Writing songs is like collecting water in a cup. When the cup is full, the water comes out naturally," he told *China Daily*.

For nearly ten years, he did very few interviews or concerts. His low-key life may well have continued if Faye Wong hadn't sung his song, *Legend*, at 2010's *CCTV Spring Festival Gala*.

Li said the song brought him out of his "cave" and back into spotlight: concerts and reality shows have been endless.

On TV, Li has not fitted the stereotype most people have of pop stars, mostly because of his academic background.

And while studying electronic engineering at Tsinghua might not have helped Li's career musically, it certainly gave his songs and mindset a different touch.

俗话说：酒香不怕巷子深。但是，登上电视荧幕之后，现在李健成了人人都知道的一坛“好酒”。

在某真人秀节目的舞台上，这位40岁的创作型歌手因其精湛的唱功而备受好评；意想不到的，受到称赞的还有他的幽默感。

李健出生于哈尔滨，从京剧演员父亲那里继承了一副干净、悦耳的嗓音。他腼腆的性格、充满诗意的歌词，则让他拥有了“音乐诗人”的雅号。

“年轻的时候，音乐之于我就像心理治疗。”在接受《中国日报》的采访时，他说。

音乐也是他进入清华大学的桥梁。作为一名自学成才的吉他手，李健曾在诸多歌唱比赛中获奖。如他所言，正是清华大学对音乐特长生的加分才让他有缘名校。

90年代，正是“校园乐队”在中国如火如荼之时。李健和另一名清华学生卢庚戌组成的水木年华乐队正是其中最经典的一支。

2002年，疲于商演的李健离开水木年华，选择单飞。

此后，李健又发布了几张个人专辑。如中国国际广播电台所评价，（这些专辑）全部坚持了他“温柔、接地气、有亲和力”的曲风。

不同于一些出歌很快的音乐人，李健总是会花很久的时间去创作感人肺腑的音乐。

“创作歌曲就像收集一杯水，杯子装满时，水自然就会溢出来。”他告诉《中国日报》。

最近十年间，他几乎没有接受过任何采访，也没有举办过演唱会。如果不是2010年王菲在央视春晚上演唱了他创作的歌曲《传奇》，也许他还会继续着如此低调的生活。

他说，这首《传奇》让他走出了“洞穴”，回到聚光灯下：一场接一场的演唱会、真人秀节目扑面而来。

电视上的李健打破了人们心中流行歌星的形象。这也许和他的学术背景息息相关。

在清华大学学习电子工程的经历也许对李健的音乐生涯帮助不大，但无疑改变了他的思维方式，也为他的音乐带来一抹不一样的色彩。