

NEWS

## LOCAL VIOLINIST ISAAC ENG RETURNS FROM TRIP TO CHINA

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Local Mississauga artist and violinist, Isaac Daniel Eng, has just released his new YouTube video performing a cover of One Republic's Secrets against the backdrop of Shanghai's waterfront and says the experience has transformed him musically.

Classically trained Eng has been performing since he was four-years-old across the Greater Toronto Area, winning titles like GTA's Got Talent for his rendition of Ellie Golding's "Burn".

His latest project Shanghai Secrets comes as a result of travelling back to his roots - to Shanghai, China - and teaching, performing and living there for two years.

"Shanghai's Bund (or waterfront area) is just so

beautiful, I wanted to capture it for my own memory," Eng said. "Another reason is that many of my violin students ... demanded that I film ... in China."

Being half-Chinese himself, Eng says being in China allowed him to reconnect with his cultural heritage through learning Mandarin and living in Chinese culture.

"Working with students and musicians from all over the world was amazing," he said. "I rediscovered what I loved to do in a foreign country - which is to share music through performance and education."

While in China, Eng taught music at Jin Chai International School. He taught ten classes from grades one to five, as well as, private violin lessons to students after school. He continued to perform in the evenings, some-

times solo, other times with a rock band called Dahaha.

"We played regularly in the Shanghai music scene and travelled to other cities, such as Beijing and Wuhan," he said.

Over the years, Eng says, he has grown significantly when it comes to music.

"I've spent a lot more time in the underground rock scene in a band," he said.

During his time in China with the band Dahaha, Eng worked on their debut album called "Dakou Radio", where he explores his abilities as an electric violinist within a rock band arrangement.

As for his solo work, Eng says he is experimenting more with complex, layered, and intricate live-looped orchestral arrangements.

"My ideas for future projects include fusing traditional Asian music into pop covers since I was exposed to so much Chinese culture during my time away."