

11THU

BLOWING IN THE WIND Created by Heinz Spoerli, one of Europe's most respected choreographers, *Winds in the Void* is set to Bach's cello suites performed by Claudius Herrmann of the Zurich Opera Orchestra. Part of the d'ans Festival, the Zurich Ballet deftly executes Spoerli's reinventions of the classics. At the Esplanade Theatre until October 12. Tickets from Sistic

12FRI

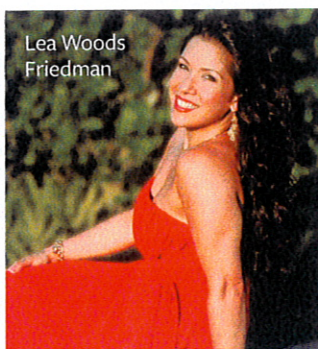
SINGLE-HANDED Alexandre Tharaud on piano performs Ravel's Concerto for the left hand in D major with the SSO. Composed for a pianist who lost his arm in the First World War, its jazz-influenced rhythms continue to hold sway. At the Esplanade Concert Hall. Tickets from Sistic

13SAT

FLASH DANCE Part of the d'ans Festival, *Stars of Russian Ballet* perform excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker* and *Don Quixote*. Contemporary works by Nikolai Androssov, Alexei Ratmanský and Hans van Manen will also be performed. Prima ballerina of the Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet, Ulyana Lopatkina, along with soloists from the Kirov Ballet and the St Petersburg State Ballet Theatre display dramatic finesse. At the Esplanade Theatre. Tickets from Sistic

15MON

OPERATIC FANTASIA Shangri-La Hotel presents a cultural and gastronomic evening commencing with cocktails followed by a five-course European dinner. Operatic stars include soprano Lea Woods Friedman, mezzo-soprano Fenlon Lamb, baritone Ryan Taylor and tenor Victor Robertson. At the Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel. Tel: 6213 4393



Lea Woods Friedman

TittleTattle



Ruxandra Donose

HIGH-T WITH ...

Ruxandra Donose

WORLD-RENOWNED ROMANIAN MEZZO-SOPRANO RUXANDRA DONOSE PERFORMS WITH THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA AT THE OPENING CONCERT OF THE SINGAPORE SUN FESTIVAL

SINGAPORE TATLER: *How does singing move you?*

DONOSE: It is a privilege to live in the skin of another character through music. It is a very intense and special quality. My instrument is my whole body and I use it to produce sound to express feelings. Doing that in front of an appreciative audience is a bonus.

TATLER: *How did you become a mezzo-soprano?*

DONOSE: I began my career as a pianist, attending music school from the age of six. It wasn't until my music teacher asked me to sing as an accompaniment to singers at the age of 17 that I realised my true calling.

TATLER: *How did you develop as a mezzo-soprano?*

DONOSE: In the late 1980s, recordings in Romanian were rare but I managed to get hold of a recording of *La Traviata*

in Romanian. Consequently, I realised what opera and vocal art were about.

TATLER: *Do you suffer from butterflies?*

DONOSE: I am not nervous when I sing on stage but I was when I played piano. Because the voice comes direct from the heart and mind, I don't have time to think.

TATLER: *How do you balance frequent globetrotting with your family?*

DONOSE: Two-thirds of the year involves travelling the world. As much as possible, my children and husband travel with me. My husband is a freelance opera director so can accompany me. I prefer to freelance as well: I was with the Vienna State Opera for five years but one company cannot offer all the experiences and roles.

HIGH IN THE SKY

Singapore joins Cortona in Tuscany, Italy and Napa Valley in California, USA, to stage the premium integrated lifestyle festival, the Sun Festival. Daily concerts, culinary events with internationally acclaimed chefs, film screenings and world-class art exhibitions, among others, feature more than 150 artists and celebrities from Russia, America, Europe, Australia and Asia. Showcasing the Russian National Symphony Orchestra, the gala opening concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall on October 20 stars Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and mezzo-soprano Ruxandra Donose performing arias from favourite operas including Bizet's *Carmen*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Verdi's magnificent *La Traviata*, China's world-renowned pianist, Lang Lang, takes to the stage at the Esplanade Concert Hall on October 30 to round off the festival's concert programme, performing works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninov. At various venues from October 18 to 30. Tickets from Sistic.



The Russian National Orchestra



Lang Lang