

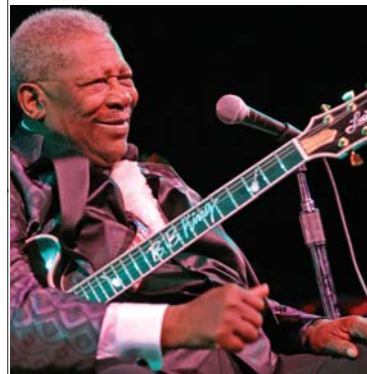
Sounds perfect

Here are some hot ways to make music a bigger part of your life.

Sounds alive

For the audiophile, the Bose Lifestyle 48 home entertainment system is a great way to get started. The system delivers big, crisp sounds through small, stylish speakers. The music centre lets users store 350 CDs' worth of music and guides the system to select listener favourites. The ADAP-TiQ set-up DVD guides first time users with speaker positioning, to maximise the audio effect. HK\$38,800 from Bose outlets in Harbour City and Times Square.

A+ A sound system that makes the most of your living room



Jazz it up

For an introduction to the world's finest jazz, blues and rock, there's no better place than the Montreal Jazz Festival, this year from 29 June to 9 July. B.B. King (pictured, left), one of the all-time greats of blues music, headlines. www.montrealjazzfest.com

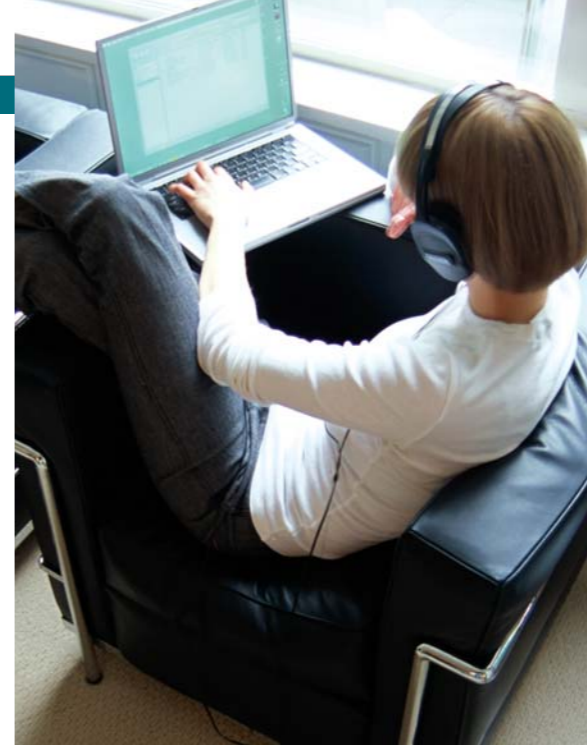
A The best way to discover music is the old-fashioned way – live and loud!

Start making music

Boasting highly trained and accomplished instructors, the Music and Drama Institute (MDI) is the best place in Hong Kong to get your musical talents in tune. The focus on quality teaching for beginners makes MDI the right place to start. Call 2526 1499 or visit www.mditalent.com



A+ Learn to express yourself with the help of recognised experts



Music outside the box

Learn more about new artists and musicians at www.pandora.com. This site finds music in your favourite style and starts playing it by streaming media – no downloads necessary. Currently, only United States residents can register on the site, although anyone can try it on a demo basis. It's like speaking to a good friend with loads of great recommendations.

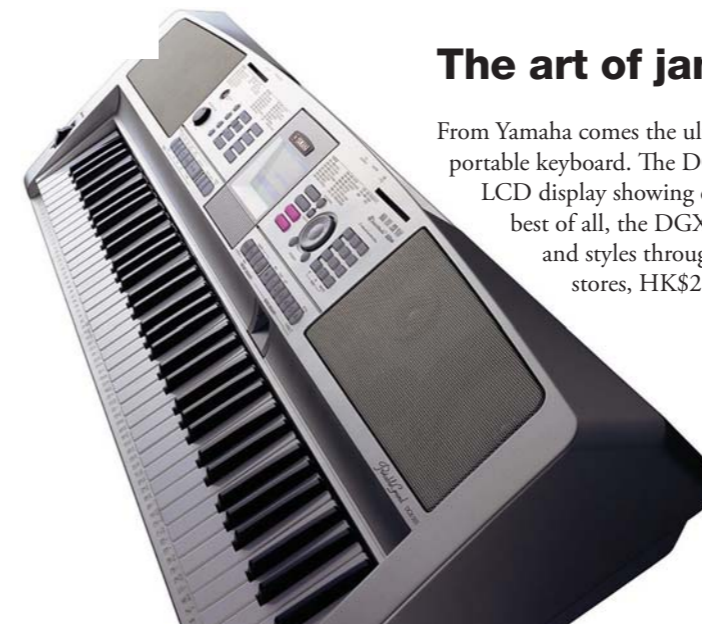
A+ Discover new music – and a technology that could shape the future of music



The world recorded

The title for coolest audio gadget this spring goes to the MicroTrak 24/96 from M-Audio. The MicroTrak is a two-channel mobile digital recorder that allows users to perfectly capture the sound of anything, from a concert, to ocean waves, to meetings and speeches. Interference is a thing of the past. HK\$3,200 at Tsang Fook Piano Co. Ltd., 2866 3086.

A+ With this magical device, the world becomes your studio



The art of jamming

From Yamaha comes the ultimate in musical toys – the DGX 305 portable keyboard. The DGX 305 has over 400 voices and a large LCD display showing chords, musical notation and lyrics. Perhaps best of all, the DGX also has a USB port, letting users swap files and styles through their computer. From Tom Lee music stores, HK\$2,735.

A+ Incredible synth sounds, with an affordable price tag

A- You may have trouble keeping the kids away from this one