

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [As China Ramps Up Scrutiny of Culture, the Show Does Not Go On](#)

Article

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/24/world/asia/china-comedy-music-crackdown.html>

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Tweet: Cultural events across China ranging from musical performances to comedy shows have been cancelled after a stand-up comic was fined \$2M for making a joke which authorities in Beijing felt was at the expense of the Chinese military.

Summary: The cancellations rippled across the country: A Japanese choral band touring China, stand-up comedy shows in several cities, jazz shows in Beijing. In the span of a few days, the performances were among more than a dozen that were abruptly called off — some just minutes before they were supposed to begin — with virtually no explanation. Just before the performances were scrapped, the authorities in Beijing had fined a Chinese comedy studio around \$2 million, after one of its stand-up performers was accused of insulting the Chinese military in a joke; the police in northern China also detained a woman who had defended the comedian online. Those penalties, and the sudden spate of cancellations that followed, point to the growing scrutiny of China's already heavily censored creative landscape. China's top leader, Xi Jinping, has made arts and culture a central arena for ideological crackdowns, demanding that artists align their creative ambitions with Chinese Communist Party goals and promote a nationalist vision of Chinese identity. Performers must submit scripts or set lists for vetting, and publications are closely monitored.

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