

5 JAN 1996

DR MAHATHIR ATTENDS ORCHESTRA CONCERT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali tonight attended a Gala Concert by the visiting Liepaja Symphony Orchestra from Latvia.

The two-and-a-half hour performance with a theme entitled "Baltic Breezes Over Malaysia" was conducted by Maestro Imants Resnis.

Malaysian pianist and cellist, 17-year-old Ong Khai Weyn played three concertos backed by the orchestra in tonight's gala event.

The concert held at a leading hotel here was the highlight of the orchestra's tour of Malaysia under the patronage of Dr Siti Hasmah and sponsored by several local companies with Malaysian Airlines (MAS) being the main sponsor.

A spokesman for the organisers said the 40-member orchestra is recognised as one of the finest from the Baltic State and takes its name from its home town Liepaja.

It conducts more than 60 performances a year in concert halls of Liepaja, Riga and other Latvian cities, with repertoire consisting of classical and contemporary music.

He said the proceeds of RM1.5 million collected tonight would be donated to charities both in Malaysia and Latvia.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik was also present at the concert attended by some 300 people. --BERNAMA