

3 JAN 1996

Orchestra

MALAYSIAN PIANIST JOINS LATVIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysian pianist Ong Khai Weyn will perform with the Latvian Symphony Orchestra on its two-week tour of Malaysia beginning Friday.

The 17-year-old Ong will also play a solo during the gala concert by the orchestra on Friday night which will be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who is the patron of the concert.

Proceeds from the concert with the theme "Baltic Breezes Over Malaysia" would go to charity causes in Malaysia and Latvia, Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Group Communications Manager Mohamed Yasin Bachik told news conference, here, today.

MAS is the major sponsor for the orchestra and the concerts here will be transmitted live to Hong Kong, Boston and Frankfurt and Nurnberg in Germany through the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Mohamed Yasin said this would be the world's first music concert promoted through ISDN.

Forty members of the world reknowned orchestra arrived yesterday led by Latvia's leading conductor Maestro Imants Resnis. They will stage two concerts in Sarawak -- in Kuching on Jan 9 and Batang Ai on Jan 11 -- and one in Johor Baharu on Jan 16.

Response to the concerts, through invitation only, had exceeded the RM200,000 target, Mohamed Yassin said.

Members of the public can catch the orchestra at a matinee concert at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton on Jan 6. Ticket are priced at RM70 and RM50 for adults, RM20 for students with matrix cards and RM10 for students wearing uniforms.

The co-sponsors of the orchestra are National Panasonic Technics, Philips, Tourism Malaysia and Sarawak Tourism Board. -- Bernama