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Musical tribute to nation in ICOM event

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A musical presentation to pay tribute to Malaysia will set the tone for the upcoming International College of Music (ICOM) Millennium Malaysian Patriotic Song Competition 2001.

Called Ibunda, this original presentation will be performed by 52 ICOM students as the opening number for the competition to be held at Angkasapuri on Aug 25.

It will feature a 36-member vocal group, a 10-piece traditional instrumental troupe as well as a six-piece band performing a fusion of east-west melodies.

ICOM President and chief executive officer Irene Savaree, who is producing and coordinating the presentation, said today the emotions of love, loyalty and honour for a mother is used as a common factor to unite the Malaysian people regardless of ethnic, religious or political background.

ICOM students will also be performing their own take on the traditional Dikir Barat art form, called the "Dikir Rap".

Their interpretation will include a distinctly progressive rap groove which is synonymous with the music of today's youth.

The interesting performance will also feature the clever use of body percussions to create a unique rhythmic beat. Students have been busy practicing for the event, which will be telecast live over RTM1 at 8pm.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, are to be the guests-of-honour for the function.

Twelve finalists, deemed to best reflect the theme and the four basic tenets of Patriotisme Alaf Baru (New Millennium Patriotism) have been shortlisted from 40 contestants.

Aged from 17 to 25, these 12 are expected to put up an exciting performance showcasing various musical styles ranging from rap, pop, rock and even asli music.

The first prize winner will receive RM50,000, the second prize RM20,000 and the third, RM7,500.

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