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Songwriting competition to instil patriotism

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Budding composers take note. A unique competition aimed at instilling a sense of patriotism and loyalty to the country has been launched by the International College of Music (ICOM).

The ICOM Millennium Patriotic Songwriting and Performance Competition 2001 is a national music outreach programme in support of the recent launch of "Patriotisme Alaf Baru" by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The unique thing about the competition is it is not confined to the traditional 'march' style of patriotic songs, but instead is applicable to all musical genres, such as pop, jazz, nasyid and even rock," said ICOM vice-president of operations Ravimaran Savari.

Open to all Malaysian amateur songwriters and performers aged between 15 and 25 years, the competition boasts of a lucrative cash award totalling RM100,000.

The first prize winner will receive a cash prize of RM50,000, while the second prize winner will receive RM20,000 and third place winner RM7,500. Nine consolation prize winners will receive RM2,500 each.

All songs must be original and lyrics must contain the essence of the four basic tenets of "Patriotisme Alaf Baru", which are a resilient and permanent love for Malaysia, spirit of togetherness and unity, pride in being a Malaysian and spirit of loyalty to the country.

Lyrics may be written in English and/or Bahasa Malaysia and must be free from political, religious and racial slants.

Songs will be judged based on lyrics, melody and overall performance.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the ICOM website at www.icom.edu.my. Each entry must include a completed entry form, a photocopy of an IC, a demo cassette or CD of the composition and music/lyric sheet.

The application deadline is April 30. Contestants may enter as many songs as they wish but each song must be mailed in a separate envelope.

Finalists will be determined by June 30. The 12 finalists will then take part in the finals which will be telecast live on television.

ICOM is a premiere private college of contemporary music in the country and the region, famous for its Berklee transfer programmes with the world renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, US, as well as various other musical degrees. It is located off Jln Pahang.

The competition has received strong support and endorsement from the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism.

The New Straits Times is the official newspaper for the event.

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