

25/08/2001

Young, aspiring and patriotic

P. Sharmini

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.- Thirteen young musicians take centre stage tomorrow in the first International College of Music (ICOM) Millenium Malaysian Patriotic Song Competition 2001 at the Auditorium Perdana, Angkasapuri.

The auditorium was a hive of activity yesterday as all 13 went through the routine with the help of ICOM Pops, the resident band.

The contestants who have been busy practising since last month looked jittery and tired.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali are scheduled to attend the competition to be broadcast live over RTM1 at 8pm.

Viewers can expect two interesting performances from ICOM students: a musical presentation called Ibunda and a modern interpretation of the Dikir Barat called Dikir Rap.

Ibunda, to be performed by a 52-member troupe, is a song with music that is a blend of East and West.

The song depicts Malaysia as a mother uniting her children (rakyat) who each has their own personality.

The Dikir Rap will feature a medley of patriotic songs sung to a progressive tune.

The musicians, although amateurs, offer music of high standards that range from pop and rock to fusion and even asli.

It is expected to inject a breath of fresh air into the local patriotic music scene.

The contest is in support of the Patriotisme Alaf Baru campaign. The finalists for the 12 songs (one features a duet) were shortlisted from 40 entries from an audition held last month. These were thought to best reflect the tenets of patriotism as they contained themes of resilience, love, unity, pride and loyalty.

The finalists and their songs are: Ghazali Hassan (Ke Mercu Jaya Malaysia), Tan Chee Meng (Demi Cinta), Azrul Sani Abdullah (Akan Aku Terus Setia), Nisha Sujata Arunasalam (One Nation, One Land), Shanon Shah Mohd Sidik (Kisahmu Belum Berakhir), Ahmad Sufiyan Shuib (Sayang Ku Malaysia).

Brian Johnson Lowe (Our Land), Mohd Zekri Ismail (Gemilang); Mohd Kamal Kamaruddin (Paksi Diri), Mozani Ramzan Mohd Noor (Jati Diri Malaysia), Azim Sulaiman Zakaria (Negaraku Malaysia) and Yew Mei Yee and Lau Kong Chyuan (Kita Yakin, Kita Percaya).

The grand prize winner receives RM50,000, the second prize winner RM20,000 and the third prize winner RM7,500.

There are nine consolation prizes of RM2,500 each.

Judges for the event are ICOM vice-president (academic affairs) Valerie Ross, vice-president (institutional development) Hanafie Imam, musician and producer Boon Tan and Positive Tone managing director Ahmad Izham Omar.