

Pavarotti bowls over 300 guests at concert dedicated to Sept 11 victims

Nst - 8 SEP 2001

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PANGKOR, Sat. — The famed voice of Luciano Pavarotti, which has touched countless of audiences across the world, thrilled guests at a special concert in Pangkor Laut Resort to-night.

The 67-year-old maestro rendered classics from well-loved operas like Puccini's *Addio fiorito asil* (*Madame Butterfly*) and *Che gelida manina* (*La Boheme*) and Verdi's *La Luce Langue* (*Macbeth*), among others.

He also dueted with soprano Cynthia Lawrence on Puccini's *O suave fanciulla* from *La Boheme* and Mascagni's *Suzel, bon di* from *L'A-mico Fritz*.

Also performing was Andrea Grimeilli on the flute to superb conducting by Leone Magiera. They were accompanied by orchestra internazionale d'Italia.

The impassioned performance, held outdoors at the resort's Emerald Bay, bowled the 300-odd crowd, most of whom were attendees at a two-day Asian Global Leadership Forum held there.

The show had a special significance as it is dedicated to the victims of the Sept 11 tragedy.

They say great music transcends colour and creed and is able to reach into the human mind and heart and as the United Nations ambassador of peace, Pavarotti's music indeed spoke volumes about love and peace.

His message was that such horrors like the Sept 11 attacks in New York should be stopped, for the sake of a safe world — the main thrust of the conference.

Adding to the scenic atmosphere of sea and surf amid lush jungle foliage was the sparkle that came from the well-heeled, well-dressed people.

Among the gliteratti and VIP guests were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Defence Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

The concert ended with a song entitled *Sorento* for the Prime Minister and an awesome fireworks display on the seafront.

This was Pavarotti's second visit to Pangkor Laut Resort. He graced its opening in 1994 and also gave a concert.

A full schedule ahead, his engagements later this month include shows in Arizona and Connecticut, USA.