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Bold vision for music

Gerald Chuah

SINGING coach and pianist Lim Mayli has always been concerned about the lack of space and opportunities for local musicians and music enthusiasts to perform.

Showcasing one's talent, she says, is an important outlet for one's creativity and a means to obtain recognition.

Having studied in Britain, where there are more avenues for one to perform - even in short stints like lunch break performances - she said only a major concert in Malaysia will spell more performing opportunities.

Taking a proactive role, she teamed up with a group of music teachers to set up Camerata dell' Arte Kuala Lumpur, which means "Friends of the Arts" in Spanish.

They source for funds and venues for local musicians to perform twice a month. Their efforts have been successful thus far and they are celebrating the fifth anniversary of Camerata dell' Arte this year.

This humble initiative has led Lim to organise a major music event called Festival of Music Kuala Lumpur, which sees her heading the organising committee.

The festival has, incidentally, unearthed a wealth of musical talent.

The four-month festival, which began in September has young and new music and dance talents competing in traditional, classical, pop and jazz categories.

The festival culminates in ExpoMuzik 2002, an annual music conference, convention, competition and exhibition, with participation from the Malaysian music education, trade and entertainment communities.

The inaugural ExpoMuzik last year was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. This year's event, taking place over five days, is expected to attract 20,000 visitors. It will be held at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, at Bandar Sunway.

It is targeted at schoolchildren, their parents and young adults, music enthusiasts and professionals.

"ExpoMuzik is based on the premise that the music trade and entertainment communities have an interdependent relationship with the music education community," Lim said.

"The main thrust of ExpoMuzik is the promotion of music education to boost the development of the music trade and entertainment industry in Malaysia," she added.

ExpoMuzik also features the following:

- * Indie-Festations, a four-day performance by 30 independent bands from Dec 19 to 22, at Sunway Pyramid;

- * The Malaysian Music Arts and Dance Teachers' Convention, to be held on Dec 16 at Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre. It is themed Role of Music Arts and Dance Teachers in Building a Harmonious Malaysian Community. The registration fee, inclusive of convention materials, lunch and coffee/tea break are RM100 and RM60 (for students);

- * The Malaysian Music Summit and Conference 2002, to be held on Dec 16 and 17 at the Convention Centre, will bring together the various sectors of the music industry - manufacturing, wholesale, retail, trade and distribution. It examines global and overall trends in music and prospects for Malaysia as well as key issues such as availability of affordable music instruments, quality music education and professional management of music talents. The registration fee is RM250 and RM60 (for students).

ExpoMuzik is organised by OmnisAsia Sdn Bhd on behalf of Camerata dell'Arte of Kuala Lumpur, a non-profit network of individuals working to provide a platform for the development of musical talents and camaraderie among themselves and their supporters.

For further information, call OmnisAsia Sdn Bhd at 03-2284-2932, fax 03-2284-3849 or e-mail expomuzik2002@yahoo.com. More information and registration forms can be obtained through www.expomuzik.com.my.

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