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Sergio Mendes to perform in fund-raiser

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Brazilian artiste Sergio Mendes will perform at a one-night fund-raising show in aid of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) at the Shangri-La Hotel here on Oct 6.

The 90-minute dinner show starts at 8.30pm.

Mendes, along with his nine-member team including two vocalists and six musicians, is expected to arrive here on Oct 5.

Prior to the Kuala Lumpur show, Mendes, once popular with 1983's Never Gonna Let You Go, will be performing in Manila.

Malaysian AIDS council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir will be the patron of the event.

Organiser Harold Learmond-Criqui of Pineapple Concerts said the show would be a rare treat for Malaysians.

"It's very important for an artiste of his calibre to perform in Malaysia. Such events can contribute to the country's tourism industry," he said.

Mendes was one of the top-selling Brazilian artistes in the United States in the 1960s. Charting hit singles and albums that made the top five, his records with his group Brasil '66 regularly straddled the domestic pop and international markets in the US and enjoyed regular plays over local radio stations.

His early music, represented on albums such as Bossa Nova York and Girl From Ipanema, was influenced by Antonio Carlos Jobim, on whose recording he worked.

He liked what he had found on his visit to New York and in 1964, he moved to the US, initially to play on albums with Jobim and Art Farmer, and formed Brasil '65 the following year.

The group recorded for Capitol without attracting too much attention at first. In 1966, however, he and his band, renamed Brasil '66, were signed to A&M Records and something clicked between the group and its audience.

His 1983 comeback album, Sergio Mendes, was his first top 40 album in nearly 15 years, and was accompanied by his biggest chart single ever, Never Gonna Let You Go, which hit No. 4.

Tickets, priced at RM1000, RM850 and RM670 per person are inclusive of a six-course Western dinner. For reservations, call 03-27807010/27808090.