

Sabah to host 4th Asia Suzuki Music Conference at UMS next month

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KOTA KINABALU: Around 300 local and international participants will be taking part in the 4th Asia Suzuki Music Conference to be held from August 3 to 7 at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The conference, first to be hosted in Malaysia, will see delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines, South Korea, Brunei Darussalam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia and India. The event is organized by the Malaysia Suzuki Association (MSA) in collaboration with UMS.

MSA president cum conference chairman Peter Chua said several three-year-old violin students from Hong Kong will also join the conference, which exemplifies the Suzuki Method of teaching music has made it possible for children to start learning music before they can even read or write.

Themed 'It makes beautiful music from beautiful heart', the

conference aims to reflect the philosophy of love and compassion in music education encouraged by Shinichi Suzuki, the founder of Suzuki Method of teaching music.

Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun has been invited to officiate at the opening ceremony at the Recital Hall, UMS on August 4, while Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Peter Pang En Yin will officiate at the closing ceremony on August 7.

The three-year-olds and other Suzuki Method students will have the opportunity to attend special classes conducted by well-known music teachers during the five-day event.

Teachers and students will also be performing at a concert in conjunction with the opening ceremony, an ensemble night on August 5, an evening concert on August 6 and at the closing ceremony on August 7.

Chua pointed out the

Suzuki Method is different from the traditional method of teaching music, as it is not only about music but also aims at a holistic human development.

The Suzuki Method emphasizes learning music at a young age, to train students on their motor skills, sound and listening.

The teaching method aims at enabling students to handle a range of musical instruments as they understand the beat and rhythm.

Chua added the conference will hope to educate the public about the Suzuki Method as a number of music teachers here do not possess the proper method of teaching.

"It is sad to note that traditional music teachers make music learning so difficult and technical.

"We encourage our teachers to know how to compose music, to improve and rearrange music because these are important when they teach students," he said,



On the front row, Chua (fourth right), Lee (centre) and Iggau (fourth left) with Suzuki Method teachers.

stressing the significance of creative learning in music.

Among the musicians who will be featured at the conference are Professor Hwang Kyung Ik, president of the Asia Suzuki Association and teacher trainer, Professor Jeong Cheol Woong, administrator

of Asia Suzuki Association and teacher trainer based in Seoul, Professor Carmencita G. Arambulo, well-known piano pedagogue, Professor Lan Ku Chen, president and teacher trainer of Taiwan Talent Education Association and board member of the Asia Suzuki Association,

Bai-Chi Chen, coordinator of the Suzuki Cello Program at the Peabody Preparatory, Associate Professor Razif Mohd, deputy dean of the School of Arts in Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang and Ng Teck Yeong, director of the Figaro School of Performing Arts.

Also present at the press conference were deputy president of MSA Dr Janet Lee, and UMS' head of music programme of the School of Arts Studies, Resot Iggau.

For more information, please contact Peter Chua at 019-883355 or log on to suzuki.association.org.my.