

# UMS Big Band again at KK Jazz Festival

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For the third year running, University Malaysia Sabah (Music Programme, School of Arts) were again involved in the KK Jazz Festival and this year the festival was held for two days on 15 and 16th of June at Sutera Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. For such a prestigious event that's consistently pulling in a packed house of international and local crowd, the UMS's Music Programme performing team, often under the guidance of able hands of Roslee Haji Wahid must have been doing the right thing and im-

pressing the festival's performing artists selection committee as they have been invited to perform year after year.

Roslee Haji Wahid, a music lecturer in the Music Programme, School of Arts, UMS was the man responsible for the UMS Big Band debut performance at the same festival two years ago (2010) and again managed to captivate the Borneo art community last year by introducing a contemporary Gamelan Jazz group of the School of Arts called AgungBeat who performed impressively with Sabahan



professional singer Dayang Noraini, not only at the KK Jazz Festival 2011 but also at the world renowned event, the Rainforest World Music in Santubong, Sarawak. Roslee himself and another music lecturer of UMS, Andrew Poninting made up the back-bone of this year's UMS Big Band as not only did they organize, re-arrange songs for the band, both of them also performed with the band with Roslee playing the trombone and the latter, tenor saxophone.

The UMS Big Band which consists of a drummer, a bass player, a guitarist, a pianist, one trumpet player, three trombonists and seven saxophone players have been preparing and practicing intensely in the months leading up to this festival as it is a highly anticipated international event that is always attracting professionals and well established performers and musicians from Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia, Thailand, UK and also from The United States. This year the festival, jointly organized by SPARKS (Kota Kinabalu Society of Performing Arts) and The Rotary Club of Sabah managed to get some world class performers such as Juwita Suwito (Malaysia), Amir Yusoff (Malaysia), Raisa and Rio Sidek (Indonesia) and the superb performing international Jazz band of Johnny Rodgers (USA).

UMS big band put some real unique element in their music or performances by

performing local numbers only such as Bahtera Merdeka, Chan Mali Chan, Rasa Sayang, the legendary Bunyi Gitar song composed by the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee, Sinaran (Sheila Majid) and Tanak Kampung. These re-arrangement of songs into a proper big band setup were jointly collaborated by the members of the band and the students' of Roslee as one of the requirements in one of the papers he teaches in the Music Programme which are Arranging and Composition II. These songs were mostly arranged as instrumentals except, Bahtera Merdeka which was beautifully sung by another talented music student Charlene Petrus Edin, Sinaran by multi-talented cello and piano lecturer Miss Anabelle Tiu and Tanak Kampung which was expertly swung up by Andrew Poninting. Their performance was an ultimate fusion of talent and experience and the appreciative crowd was having the time of their life singing along, tapping their feet to the rhythm of the band and applauding loud at every interval in between songs performed. The President of SPARKS Mr. Cheong Kok Ann was singing praises of the band by pin-pointing that the support from the School of Arts, the leadership of Roslee and the commitment and talent of these Sabahan youth boosted the strength of the band that made UMS Big Band one of the high points of this year's KK Jazz Festival.

