

Allegrow Music, UMS to hold classical recital May 25

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KOTA KINABALU: Allegrow Music in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be conducting a classical recital called 'A Song and Piano Recital' at the faculty recital hall on May 25, at 7.30 pm.

The recital features two local classical musicians – award-winning soprano, Ang Mei Foong and pianist/composer, Wong Chee Yean – who will also be providing a workshop for UMS music students and exclusive masterclasses for the public as well.

Co-founder of Allegrow Music, Rachel Lee aims to give back to the local community by providing music education to underprivileged children and to develop their interest and talent in music. Allegrow Music will work together with Woori Jib, an orphanage home located in Kampung Potuki, Putatan, to offer scholarships to the children in the form of free music lessons and music books for five years.

"It is my intention to give the underprivileged orphans an opportunity to learn, cultivate and appreciate music. In future, I hope they will give back to the community too," says Rachel. Woori Jib is a welfare home for orphans from poor Catholic families, mostly girls aged between 7 to 17 years old (Primary One to Form Five).

The classical recital that will be performed by Ang Mei Foong and Wong Chee Yean

consists of a selection of Chinese, German and Malaysian art songs, as well as Italian arias and Chopin Piano Sonata No. 3. The performance will also be joined by UMS violin lecturer, Grace Lee as a guest performer.

Mei Foong is an active recitalist and has given several well-received solo recitals in Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan, Macau, Rome and Melbourne. She has also collaborated with a few major orchestras and ensembles in Malaysia, including both the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), the Malaysia Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (MPYO), and the Virama Ensemble. She is also the founder and artistic director of The Song Weavers – Malaysia's first vocal ensemble that is dedicated to the performance and programming of Art Songs.

Chee Yean, who previously worked together with Mei Foong, has also collaborated with some very fine musicians from the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in their Chamber Music Series, both as a pianist and a harpsichordist. As a composer, though Chee Yean had never been formally trained, two of his orchestral works, Six Sketches and Triptych were performed by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Five of his songs for voice and piano published by Chin Yong Music society have also received their premieres in

Malaysia, Singapore, China and the U.K.

Grace Lee graduated from University of Hull with both Bachelor of Music (Hons) and Master of Music, majoring in violin performance, second with piano accompaniment and ensemble performance. She is currently a lecturer in UMS and is actively involved with the Jesselton Philharmonic Orchestra giving masterclasses, workshops and performances around Sabah and Sarawak. She has performed with international professional musicians like Professor Alexander Souptel, Masako Suzuki White and Professor Mathias Boegner.

'A Song and Piano Recital' welcomes children, youth, adults and families to attend and enjoy an evening of classical performances. Tickets will be available at all Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf outlets in Kota Kinabalu, and Hollywood Music House, Karamunsing. Ticket prices are RM50 for adults (18 years and older) and RM30 for students. A music workshop will be conducted on May 26 for UMS music studies students at the Ahmad Nisfu Theatre, UMS, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Whereas in the afternoon, masterclasses for piano and vocals will be conducted at Allegrow Music Centre, T1 Bundusan for the public with a fee.

Please contact Allegrow Music at 019-229 6270 to pre-book a slot for the masterclass or to enquire for more details.