

British author's book on Sabah music industry launched

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By Jenne Lajun

KOTA KINABALU: British-born writer, Joanna Funk, became the first person to produce a book that tells a story about the Sabah music industry.

Her book 'Sabah Songs: Contemporary Music in Sabah', was produced in the hope of lending support to those in the music industry in Sabah and to highlight their dedication towards their craft and their quest to produce quality work of arts, said Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun at the launching of the book yesterday.

"I commend the writer and the publisher for making the effort

to produce the book even though it is a fact that it is difficult to generate profit from its sales. This book was produced out of love of the writer to the music and musicians in Sabah. It is a known fact that musicians in Sabah do not earn much but they continue on because they are honestly in love with their art," he said.

He added that this willingness to do anything for the sake of music was what made musicians in Sabah special.

The book featured musicians and people working within the contemporary music industry in Sabah and based on entries in her blog sabahsongs.wordpress.com which Joanna recorded

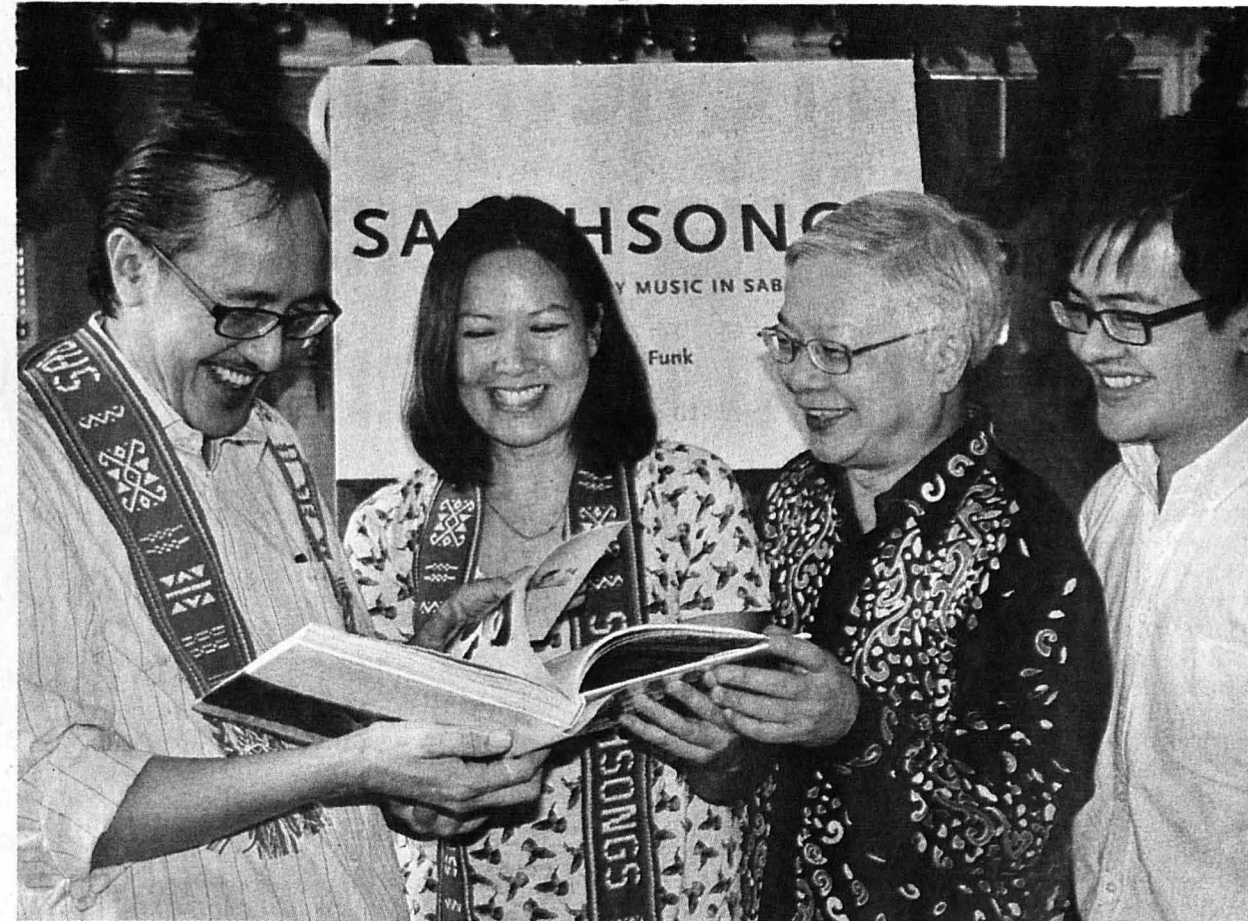
from 2009 to 2012 while living in Sabah.

The book contains 36 interviews with people working in blues, jazz and metal, Western and Chinese classical music, rock and pop.

"They comprised lecturers from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah Institute of Art, professional musicians, composers, conductors, luthiers, sound engineers and event managers," she said, during the launching ceremony held at a restaurant near here yesterday.

"There are also accounts of signature events like the Kota Kinabalu Jazz Festival and the Sunset Music Fest in Kudat."

The book also featured stories about visiting artistes ranging



Masidi (left) and Joanna (second left) browsing through the coffee table book that featured the music scene of Sabah.

from piano recitals by Polish Raphael Lustchevski to the whole gamut of Americana from the

Johnny Rogers Band to a taste of opera from Australia's Lady Shaula.

Published by Opus Publications, a total of 1,000 books were printed for sale.