According to Janet, "Even though he was very good at play-ing the organ, he still had to have a

ing the organ, he suit hat to have a certificate before he could be ad-mitted into any institute of higher learning. By the time he reached Form Five, he had to put aside music for a while to concentrate

It is interesting to note that Ng

of a car, he can more often than

not tell its make - whether it is a

Toyota, BMW or Datuk Zainal's

Mercedes Benz SLK 280, Janet re-

on his SPM exams.

has a passion for cars By simply touching the handle



## Musical wonder wows shoppers

By Naveen Mathew Menon streets@nstp.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The haunting strains of the classic song Love Story being played on the piano filled the air at Bangsar Village 2 The polished rendition of the pop ular song caught the attention of early afternoon shoppers at the upmarket mall and lent a spring to their steps.

Tired shoppers smiled and stopped for a while to relax on the chairs nearby and enjoy the music. While some mall-goers took photos of the musical wonder, others requested him to play their favourite songs and he obliged.

Seated at the piano totally en-raptured by the music, his head bobbing to its rhythm, his hands dancing across the black and white keys was 26-year-old pro-fessional musician Colin Ng.

What is different about this scene from other places featuring live musicians is that the young pianist sporting cool, dark sunglass-

es is visually impaired.

Regular visitors to the shopping centre know they can find him playing there between 12.45pm playing their between and 2.45pm everyday except on Mondays as he is a resident musician at the shopping complex.

A visitor who happened to hear in the shopping complex to t

him play last year is today one of his biggest fans and strongest Datuk Zainal Abidin Ali, an ar-

chitect by profession, was capti-vated by Ng's prowess when he came to the Bangsar Village 2 to launch an event by Habib Jewels.

"During lunch break, I suddenly heard this beautiful music. Curious, I looked to see who was performing and found this young man playing the piano. I wanted to test him and asked him whether he could play the theme song from Titanic. He played it. It was beautiful.

"He played many of my favourites and I started singing along," said Zainal who dropped by during this interview with Ng

Ng played at the launch of Zainal's autobiography entitled Travels and Tribulations of An Architect. Starting off by rehearsing together for the event where Zainal and Ng performed togeth-

er, the two have become good when he said that they were work

Zainal let the cat out of the bag ing together on an album. Ng also performs at dinners, weddings and private functions whenever the opportunity arises

He has composed six songs in-cluding Eagle and Love Is In The Air. One of the songs is a special number dedicated to his mother, Janet Ng, entitled Heart Of Love.

The song was written after he read the touching book written by his mum entitled Harvest Of Love which deals with Ng's upbringing.

"The book was written to en-

courage other parents of special children to strive on and not give

up," Janet explained.

Ng is proud of his mother who has bagged seven Mother Of The Year awards for her dedication, caring and patience

It was indeed Janet's undying support and love that propelled him to earn his diploma in music from UCSI University

and obtain a Bachelor of Music degree.

It was not easy for Janet. "Initially, when Colin was a ba-by, I didn't know what to do because he was blind. He was born this way because he had craniostenosis which is a premature fusion of the skull.

"I used to play music cassettes for him when he was a baby, at least to keep him occupied. One day, when he was three years old, I heard music coming from his room but I did not recall turning on any cassettes that day

"So, I opened the door to the room and saw that he was using a musical calculator to play a piece of music by Klaus Wunderlich.

"I realised he had a liking for music though I didn't know to what extent this interest in music would grow. But, that was a start. He first started learning to play the organ before moving on to the piano," Janet said.

Ng said, "I needed to learn the music pieces even though I couldn't see. One method was by hearing the piece played by the teacher and then slowly learning to play the whole thing."

Being a keen student, he was able to skip a few grades and went straight to Grade 4

"Initially, he went into an integrated programme at a normal school, St Johns, but the system there was not suitable for him.
"So, he enrolled into Sekolah

Menengah Pendidikan Khas Cacat Penglihatan in Setapak," Janet

Speaking about one of his great-est challenges, Ng said, "In order to continue my education in music, the first thing I had to do was get a certificate to be admitted into any music course.



Professional musician Colin Ng overcame his visual disability to excel in music. He has composed six songs and is collaborating with Datuk Zainal Abidin Ali, one of his greatest supporters, to

produce an

album.