

UCSI's night of classical music

KUALA LUMPUR: Crowd favourites such as Pak Ngah's *Keranamu Malaysia*, classics by Chopin and Mozart, and songs from well-loved operas such as *La Boheme* were given a fresh rendition at the Properganda Musical, co-organised by the Selangor and Kuala Lumpur Chinese Assembly Hall Choir, UCSI University and the Dithyrambic Singers recently.

The musical, under the artistic direction of Ian Lim Kean Seng, starred UCSI University's alumni members Bui Yik Ling, Shah Johan Shahridzuan, Rachel Tan Cheng Suan and Tay Chai Ying.

The musical featured opera arias from *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *Faust*, operatic scenes from *Die Lustige Witwe*, *La Traviata*, and powerful vocal solos, duets and quartets from other operas.

A few well-known Chinese pieces were also blended into the mix. One of the most memorable was the *Xin-jiang* folk song *Alamuhan*, performed by Lim Huey Hsiang, Karen Tan, Shah Johan, Ang Joonkie with Tay Chai Ying on the piano.

After the intermission, the Dithyrambic Singers performed Saloma's *Di Mana Suara Burung Kenari*, to the delight of the crowd.

The Dithyrambic Singers, comprising mostly UCSI University music students, is one of the Malaysia's leading choral ensembles.

The group has made appearances at various international events, including the 2008 Busan Choral Festival and Competition in South Korea,



Pianist Tay Chai Ying and Rachel Tan give an impressive performance.

the 1st Asian Choir Games in Indonesia (2007) and the 21st Century International Choral Festival, Oriental Concentus in China.

A week before the Properganda musical, the group was invited to the Distinguished Concert in New York, and performed under the direction of

Eric Whitcare at Carnegie Hall.

All the four main performers were under the tutelage of UCSI University lecturers, and have been awarded scholarships to pursue their Masters in Vocal Performance and Piano Accompaniment at the Birmingham Conservatoire in Britain.