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WEEKEND  
DATE

# Caipifruta jazzes it up

The concert will feature new twists on evergreen favourites and reinterpretations of contemporary pop songs, writes **DENNIS CHUA**

**T**HE brainchild of four singers and three instrumentalists, the Caipifruta Vocal Quartet is a new vocal ensemble which pays homage to jazz music.

Its musical style is fun, smooth, prone to surprises and a little nutty.

The group is launching its self-titled "coming-out" EP at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPAc) in Sentul Park, Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur with two shows tomorrow and on Sunday.

Audiences can expect new twists on evergreen favourites such as *When I Fall In Love* and *Over The Rainbow* as well as reinterpretations of contemporary pop songs such as *When She Loved Me*.

P. Ramlee classics and local patriotic songs are also given a dash of spice.

The Young Choral Academy Youth Chamber Choir also makes a special guest appearance.

The group's members will have a "get-to-know" session after the evening performances, and before the matinee shows.

The concerts are a fundraiser for the Caipifruta Vocal Quartet's participation in the upcoming World Choir Games in Shaoying, China from July 15 to 26.

The group will be one of 14 teams representing Malaysia in this event.

Caipifruta is the musical brainchild of Tracy Wong (soprano), Lai Suk Yin (alto), Aaron Teoh (tenor) and Joel Wong (bass) who first met as part of the Young KL Singers (YKLS).

After singing together since 2007 in choirs, they formed a quartet in 2008 as part of the YKLS jazz production, *Breakin' It Down*.

They enjoyed the experience so much they made the quartet a permanent institution, and have since been exploring different genres of music such as jazz, contemporary works and Renaissance pieces.

"We sing in Japanese, English, Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese. This is our first major event for the year," says Tracy.

"From June 1 to 7 we will be in the Malaysian Choral Festival at KLPAc. We will then join the Choralthon, an annual choral marathon, on July 4," adds Lai.

Tracy studied at the UCSI University and later graduated from the University of Newcastle, Australia where she was awarded the Madge Hoy Prize for top student in Piano Studies.

She has performed with the Newcastle Chamber Choir and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. She is Assistant Music Director of the YKLS.

In 2008, she was chosen by the International Federation of Choral Music to represent Malaysia in France at the International Forum — Voice, Youth And Arts Management. In 2009, she represented the country



The vocalists of Caipifruta are (from left) Joel, Lai, Tracy and Aaron

at the Asia-Pacific Choral Summit in China.

She tutors school choirs in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. She is also a composer and choral arranger.

Lai is a classical pianist and joined YKLS in

2003. She later became a songwriter best known for *Bridge Of Birds* performed by the YKLS in their concert *A Malaysian Affair* in 2006.

Aaron joined YKLS in 2004 and is a performing arts and media graduate.

Joel, a Broadway and Disney fan, also joined YKLS in 2004 and sang with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in 2009. He is a graphic designer by profession.

The talented instrumen-

talists are Tay Cher Siang (piano), Vincent Ong (bass), Edmund Yung (drums) and Yeo Chow Shern (erhu and violin). They have been playing together since 2009, but individually hold extensive musical experience.

Pianist Tay, the group's musical adviser, is a noted performer, composer, arranger and lecturer. He is an active musician, playing with Boplicity, GruvAvenue, Rizal Soliano Band and his own band WVC Trio. Most recently he has toured with the acclaimed Unit Asia.

The group's name is from one of Tay's lively compositions which pay tribute to a Jamaican cocktail.

Bassist Ong of GruvAvenue (formerly Black Machine) is an active performer with various ensembles in hotel lounges, clubs and music festivals in Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

Drummer Yung is the percussionist for five bands of different genres. He is also a drum instructor, conducting seminars and drum workshops for schools.

Yeo is also an accompanist who composes and arranges his own music.

Time: 3pm and 8.30pm on Saturday, and 3pm on Sunday. Call 017-2455-727.

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