

Career options in music

MANY parents and prospective students do not realise the wide career options available for music graduates.

Recognising the tremendous potential in the field of music worldwide, UCSI University offers degree courses in both Contemporary and Classical Music. In fact, the university has been producing home-grown artistes and music professionals since 1990.

The list of lecturers at UCSI's School of Music reads like a compilation of "who's who" of the classical and contemporary music scene in Malaysia.

Many illustrious alumni have also returned to UCSI University to lecture, while others have been performing internationally. One such example is Dr Cheong Yew Choong who, despite being hearing-impaired, has won several awards, including the "International Young Soloist Award" presented by VSA Arts International in the US.

The contemporary music department also has lecturers who have made a name for themselves in the music scene. They include Willy Rebaño, one of the top contemporary pianists in Malaysia, and jazz "missionary" Tay Cher Siang who, after completing his Masters in



Many do not realise the wide career options available for graduates with a degree in Music.

Jazz Pedagogy, now performs around the ASEAN region to promote jazz music.

At the School of Music, the sounds of Bach, Mozart, Brahms, and even

Piazzolla echo from the training rooms. Classical music studies are for those who wish to pursue music at an advanced level.

The curriculum gives students the advantage of a broad-based curriculum that also allows for some specialisation in a number of areas.

While there is a curricular emphasis on performance and performance-relat-

ed studies, other areas such as history, analysis and stylistic composition are also covered, preparing students to be well-rounded music professionals.

Students who wish to pursue a degree in Contemporary Music will have the opportunity to learn and perform various music fields and styles of music.

Says Assoc Prof Dr P'ng Tean Hwa: "Students who complete a music degree at UCSI University have job prospects in various categories, which include studio work, performing, music education/teaching (pedagogy), music composition and arrangement, music sales, research and archiving as well as music business and event management."

A popular career avenue for those with a music degree is to teach music themselves. Graduates can also pursue careers as producers or arrangers, or become freelance musicians.

Employment opportunities for graduates of contemporary as well as classical music are numerous in the music education sector, while composition and arrangement in advertising and commercial sectors is also a lucrative field.

• For details on UCSI University's Music Degree Programme, visit its Open Day events from March 19-21 (10am-5pm) and talk to the counsellors. Or call 03-9101 8880 or visit www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/.