

Memory, music show brings heritage to life at Perak Museum

THE Perak Museum Department, in collaboration with the Taiping Heritage Society, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and The Crafting Music Pianos Kuala Lumpur, staged the Memories and Music Show at Perak Museum recently.

Conceptualised by the Taiping Heritage Society, the event formed part of the wider three-day Legacy 2025 programme that began last Friday, held at several locations, including the Maxwell BaseCamp and Taiping Public Library.

Legacy 2025 is an initiative designed to unite heritage through artistic performance. It creates an immersive experience for the audience to deepen their understanding of heritage values and to foster an appreciation for cultural identity through music, song and dance.

Perak Museum Department director Mohd Nasrulamiazam Mohd Nasir said the initiative aimed to turn museums into active hubs for developing heritage and artistic ideas, moving beyond their traditional role as places to exhibit artefacts.

He added the programme also played an important role in attracting diverse audiences from all ethnicities and backgrounds to enjoy cultural arts in an inclusive atmosphere, thereby uniting the community through the power of music.

"The performance acted like a 'voice of the spirit', truly bringing the soul of the museum to life. We want the public to see museums as living institutions with a new, dynamic function, not as static places confined to exhibitions and artefacts alone," he said.

He emphasised the remarkable diversity of the audience, which included people of various ethnicities from Kuala Lumpur and Negeri Sembilan, with some even travelling from Singapore specifically to experience the performance.

"What we witnessed is a symbol of unity. People from all backgrounds came together without prejudice or racism.

"We were united through the concept of music, enjoying the performance without any racial boundaries," he said.

Nasrulamiazam clarified that while his department provided the venue, facilities and programme management, the Taiping Heritage Society funded the costs.

He expressed his wish for the future, stating: "I hope that more music programmes such as this can be held on a larger scale, perhaps as mini concerts involving orchestras and a wider variety of musical instruments."

The hour-long Memories and Music Show was led by Dr Ang Mei Foong, an award-winning soprano and head of music at UPM.

It was performed by the Dendang Suara Serantau musical group, comprising UPM students.

– Bernama