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Classics rule the night

By DENNIS CHUA

THE Actors Studio Bangsar presents Classical Twist, a classical music extravaganza featuring three of the finest exponents of the genre in Malaysia. They are acclaimed violinist Joanne Yeoh, pianist Dr Lim Pei Sien and cellist Dr Chong Yew Yoong.

The trio will perform, among others, *Piano Trio In C Major KV548* by Mozart, *Reverie* by Claude Debussy, *Trio* by Charles Ives and *La Muerte Del Angel* by Astor Piazzolla.

Chong, who studied in the United States and Hong Kong as well as Canada and Italy, was principal cellist in the Venice Symphony, Hong Kong Symphonia, Meridian Symphony, Southern Illinois Symphony and Penang Symphony Orchestra.

Apart from being the music director for orchestras such as the Winter Haven, Lake Region, Winter Lake and Polk Orchestras in the United States and the Lam Woo Orchestra in Hong Kong, he has been featured in an American television programme *Pianist At Work* and collaborated with pop stars such as the late Lydia Shum Tin Har and Anita Mui Yin Fong of Hong Kong.

He also worked with classical artistes Yo Yo Ma, Orlando Cole, Stephen Hough and the Brodsky Quartet.

Chong is also a lecturer with the music faculty of University of Malaya.

Lim is a graduate of West Virginia University (WVU) in the United States, with a doctorate in Musical Arts. Her achievements include winning Pittsburg Concert Society's 2002 Major Audition and WVU Young Artiste Competitions in 1998 and 2000. She is also the Outstanding Music Student of the WVU Music Alumni Association.

From 2001 to 2004, she served as an accompanist at American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria and Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan, the United States. She is a lecturer at University College Sedaya International in Kuala Lumpur.

Yeoh obtained a First Class honours in music from Middlesex University, Britain in 1998. She was awarded a Luther And Ernest Gaunt Scholarship For Strings to study at University of Leeds.

During her studies, she also had a Foreign And



Commonwealth Scholarship, in association with the British Council and University of Leeds.

While in Britain, Yeoh participated in various musical events, including the Aberswyth Music Festival in Wales and the Edinburgh Summer Festival and Aberdeen Music Festival in Scotland.

She was awarded the Outstanding Malaysian Award in 2004 and more recently Martell's Rising Personality Award 2008.

In 2000, she participated in the prestigious Asian Youth Orchestra, travelling to Vietnam, Japan, Australia, South Korea and Hong Kong.

Two years later, she performed with Hong Kong pop king Jacky Cheung in his *Music Odyssey Tour* covering Malaysia,

Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, China, Taiwan, Brunei, the United States, Britain and Canada.

In 2003, she performed with Taiwanese singer David Tao in his *Soul Power Tour*. She launched her album *Pulse Of The Metropolis* in 2005.

Yeoh lectures at the music department of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang and also sits in the panel of examiners for Trinity Guildhall London.

Venue: The Actors Studio in Bangsar Shopping Centre, Jalan Maarof, Kuala Lumpur. Time: 8.30pm on Aug 7. Tickets: RM78, RM68 and RM48. Call 03-2094-0400 or 012-365-8223.

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