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 Yeh, pianist Dr Lim Pei Sien and cellist Dr Chong
Yew Young.

The trio will perform, among others, Piano Trio In C Major
KV548 by Mozart, Reverie by Claude Debussy, Tico 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 Folk Orchestras
in the United States and the Lam Woon 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
artists 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 Pittsburgh Concert
Society's 2002 Major Audition and
WVU Young Artist Compositions
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.

Yeh 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, Yeh
participated in various musical
events, including the Aberystwyth
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
Odeyssey 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.

Yeh 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
at the Bangsar Shopping Centre,
Jalan Maarof, Kuala Lumpur.
Time: 8.30pm on Aug 7. Tickets:
RM7, RM10 and RM45. Call
03-2094-0400 or 012-365-8223.