



# A storm of stars

**U**NIVERSITY of Malaya Chinese Orchestra (Umco) did justice to joyful traditional Chinese music at their recently concluded annual concert.

Themed "A Storm of Stars" the concept was based on the fact that each musician possesses his own uniqueness when paired with an instrument.

However, as an orchestra, the musicians have the ability to weave tales and tell stories with their exquisite music and sweet harmonies. The highlight of the night was the encore piece which was recomposed by conductor Ho Kye Wenn.

Ho is a third-year mechanical engineering student who is also a talented *dizi* (Chinese flute) player and will be graduating this October.

"The song is a medley of three songs by the Taiwanese band, Mayday. The lyrics of the songs are touching and meaningful. This song is a tribute to all our seniors who have graduated and the ones who will be graduating this year," said Ho.

The concert included 11 renowned Chinese orchestra masterpieces such as *The Drinking Song*, *Longing for the Spring Breeze*, and *Mongolian Herdsmen*.

Among the audience were students from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College and Asia Pacific University. A remarkable display of musical appreciation came from 30 Universiti Sains Malaysia students who journeyed from Penang to immerse themselves in a night of sweet music.

The chairman of the concert, Koo Xuan Yi, who has been involved in Chinese orchestra since his secondary school days, said that the members had put in six months of practice in preparation for the concert.

He added: "Being a university student

*Our passion for music is what keeps us motivated. We want to keep this tradition alive.*

**KOO XUAN YI**  
chairman of the concert



who has to cope with both studies and extracurricular simultaneously may be stressful at times. Our passion for music is what keeps us motivated. We want to keep this tradition alive."

Umco proved that Chinese Orchestra is still a crowd favourite as the concert tickets were sold out a week before the performance night and successfully attracted attention. The auditorium was packed with 500 music lovers from all over Malaysia.

Umco aspires to continue this tradition by holding a concert every year so that the members of the orchestra will have a chance

1. Umco musicians all smiles at the concert. 2. A member of the percussion section during the performance of *The Mouse's Marriage*. 3. Er Hu players in action. 4. Orchestra members in full concentration.

to showcase their musical talents and shine on stage.

Established in 1981, Umco comprises more than a hundred students from different courses and faculties.