

Lessons from an idol

ASPIRING musicians had the opportunity to meet their idol and learn from renowned Australian guitarist Tommy Emmanuel during a workshop at UCSI University recently.

Emmanuel, a two-time Grammy nominee, conducted the workshop, sharing his trademark "finger style" guitar playing technique, as well as tips and advice on making it in the music business.

The workshop coincided with the finals of a competition called "Get Inspired" Finger Style Guitar Competition, which called on guitarists to compose or arrange a song and play it on an acoustic guitar. Dubbed as "finger-pickers", this unique guitar-playing style required all 10 fingers to be used while playing the guitar to produce a much richer sound.

Emmanuel was a judge, along with



Emmanuel sharing tips on how to arrange a song for acoustic guitar.

with UCSI University Contemporary Music lecturer Juan Pablo De Zubiria, Audio Electric Research (AER) managing director Udo Rosner, The Guitar Store founder Kuah Wei Chin and Malaysian guitarist Roger Wang.

The grand prize of a Maton acoustic guitar worth RM4699 went to banker Christopher Aban, who also won the chance to perform at the Penang Island Jazz Festival. Alex Koh Chun Eik won the second prize while the youngest contestant, 15-year-old Ng Yen Ray clinched the third prize.

Emmanuel was in Malaysia for a one-week visit organ-

ised by The Guitar Store, supported by UCSI University and the Penang Jazz Festival, and sponsored by AER and Maton guitars.

He also held a concert at Wisma MCA, Kuala Lumpur.