



Well done:
Maxy is the first Malaysian pianist to clinch gold in the Asia Piano Competition.

Maxy-mising young talent

MAXY Chan Mei Xuan made history when she became the first Malaysian pianist to win a gold award in the Asia Piano Competition in Taiwan.

Performing a piece entitled *The Tom and Jerry Show* by jazz composer Hiromi Uehara, the UCSI University student edged out some of Asia's upcoming pianists to bag the top award in the Asian Works (Young Adults) category.

Despite being naturally shy, Maxy gave a performance that showed off her nifty fingerwork and expressive artistry.

"I practised four to six hours each day for the competition and I'm glad my dedication paid off," said the 18-year-old.

"However, I started the piece with a slower tempo as I was aware of my lack of reach on the keyboard. I have really short fingers and I can't stretch that much!"

Maxy walked away with the gold by a comfortable margin to record her third win in four competitions but despite the encourag-

ing 75% win rate, she is determined to keep her feet on the ground.

"I only started competing this year... the wins are encouraging but deep inside, I consider myself to be a greenhorn. The fact is, I still can't play as well in competitions as I do at home!" said the diminutive lass.

Over the moon with her win, Maxy expressed her desire to approach future competitions with the same focus and dedication to fulfil her dreams of becoming a concert pianist.

Currently pursuing a Foundation in Arts programme at UCSI, Maxy said she has learnt a lot at the varsity.

"My practical skills have improved and I look forward to learning more when I pursue my degree in music," she said.

She began playing the piano at the tender age of four and obtained her Licentiate — the equivalent of the performance component on completion of a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire — last year.