

A head START

A charity concert to raise funds for underprivileged children teaches UCSI University freshmen key life skills

FIRST-year UCSI University School of Music students recently raised RM2,047.60 for StART Society, an organisation which teaches art and music to underprivileged children.

The two-month-long charity project, which is a part of the UCSI University Life course requirement for its freshmen, culminated with the Music Brings Us Together concert that featured contemporary and classical music and dance performances from the School of Music and StART students.

StART Society programme director Joshua Lee says: "It means a lot to (my charges) to go on stage and hear the applause. It validates what they are doing."

"It was also a good opportunity for the children to connect with big brothers and sisters who took an interest in them."

The School of Music students met StART children on several occasions to practise.

As most of the children

come from broken families and have been orphaned, abandoned or abused, the experience truly improved their self-esteem.

School of Music lecturer and University Life course instructor Dr Christine Tan says the concert is a way to teach students key life skills.

"It is important for them to have traits such as leadership and a sense of duty to society, as well as to give back with their talent."

"These children have the privilege to learn music. (Other than

that) they have nothing," she adds.

University Life is an introductory programme offered to first-year students to help them make the transition from school to the university.

The course covers topics such as time management, cultural diversity and effective communication to help align students with UCSI University's Graduate Attributes, which include qualities such as civic responsibility and being an engaged global citizen.



Christine Tan (left) handing over the donations received at the concert to Joshua Lee

The children playing heart-stopping music using everyday items

The children strutting their stuff

