

Winning harmonies



In sync: The choir striking a pose after their performance at the competition.

UCSI University's School of Music recently sang their way to victory in the International Choral Festival in Taiwan when they bagged the Gold award in the Chamber choir category.

The varsity sent 26 of its best vocalists to compete in the competition which drew 17 participating teams from around the region.

The choir members had rehearsed tirelessly for three weeks before heading off to the Yilang province for the five-day competition.

The students' gruelling schedule included three hours of daily vocal class sessions, two hours of weekly sectionals and three three-hour sessions on their own – outside normal class schedules.

The choir performed three numbers, including an original composition by the university's final-year student Maxilus Ooi Keng Xhik, titled *Tears within the Frost*.

Chen Yun Hung, the CEO and artistic director of the Taiwan Choral Music Centre, acknowledged the students' exceptional talent.

"Their energetic and excel-

lent performance showed that they have a very good understanding of music," said Chen, who was also an adjudicator.

The choir's vocal lecturer Ian Lim Kean Seng, who accompanied the students to Taiwan, said the students had to learn more than just singing when it came to preparation.

"They had to work together as a team," he said. "They had to be more independent and responsible."

Lee Jean, a third-year Classical Piano major, said one of the main reasons behind the choir's success was teamwork.

"Everyone had to work together and pull their weight when singing in a group – only then can the vocals stand out," she said.

"Apart from the hours we put in for practice, we also had really good team dynamics," she added.

Meanwhile, Oskar Musaev, a third-year Vocals major from Uzbekistan, said that he had learnt a lot from the other participants at the competition and he looked forward to honing his technique.