

SWEET MUSIC

Sound of kindness for Rohingya refugees

MAXY Chan knows how to move her audience. And while performing in Seoul, South Korea, and Taipei, Taiwan, the talented pianist was moving them towards a charitable cause.

Seeking to raise funds for Rohingya refugees, especially the children in Bangladesh, Maxy and 90 of her peers at UCSI University's Institute of Music rallied to organise a musical tour de force that paid tribute to some of the most famous tunes in film animation.

Organised under UCSI University's Institute of Music Student Association, the sell-out charity concerts raised a grand total of RM10,000.

Ticket sales raked in RM6,080, while RM3,920 was raised from donors as the tour drew to a close. The proceeds were channelled to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Themed "The sound of kindness for every child", the concert's repertoire featured 10 timeless soundtracks from animated movies, such as *Remember Me* from *Coco* and *One Summer's Day* from *Spirited Away*.

Other songs were from *Frozen*, *Moana*, *Tangled*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *My Neighbour Totoro*, *Pocahontas* and *The Lion*



UCSI Institute of Music students rendering a song from the animated film 'Moana'.

King. The concerts were closed with a medley from *La La Land*.

Maxy, a gold medal winner in the 2013 and 2014 Asia Music Competition, also treated her audience with a rendition of Keith Jarrett's *Köln Concert Part II*.

That part of the show was dedicated to Ismat, a 15-year-old Rohingya refugee, and others like him who suffered violence and sexual assault.

"I feel extremely happy because those involved — committee members, the crew, performers, audience and donors — have expressed delight in contributing to the cause," said Maxy, who aspires to become an acclaimed pianist.

"If we put things in perspective, we are so fortunate compared with the refugees who are stranded in a foreign nation.

"They face uncertainties and their children have a bleak future when it comes to education and life opportunities."

Maxy said the desire to ease the plight of refugee children had influenced her selection of songs. That desire also fuelled the commitment of her team in practising hard for the tour.

She first donated to Unicef five years ago to help the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. She had a burning desire to help the needy ever since, and her first fundraising piano solo recital last year raised RM420.

Lauding the students, UCSI University Institute of Music director Professor Dr

Maxy Chan, the project leader of UCSI's charity concert, giving a virtuoso performance to her audience.

P'ng Tean Hwa said the charity tour was a microcosm of what the institute was all about.

He said every musician shared the joy of music, and using that to champion a noble cause was a big bonus.

"At UCSI, we encourage our students to contribute to society with their talents. I'm very proud that so many music students have come together to highlight the plight of refugees.

"The institute has a long history of reaching out to society and I'm delighted that our students have continued this tradition," he said.