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Dama performs...



NEW **SABAH TIMES**
Sabah's First Established Paper

28.06.2007

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It was about eight o'clock at night. The music waivered over the rafters while a lone singer pushed her voice to achieve perfection. The site was the Community Hall at Sandakan Township and the performance was by Dama Orchestra.

Dama Orchestra is a very well known ensemble that has won many awards for their blending of western and traditional Chinese musical instrument.

Led by director Khor Seng Chew, the ensemble made its debut in the Malaysian performing arts scene with their concert 'An Evening of Chinese Chamber Music' on Kuala Lumpur in 1994.

The group did not look back and has since been hailed as Malaysia's music ambassador abroad where they showcase performed music from both the east and west as well as from all over the world.

Anyway, in Sandakan they rendered songs from the famous Tan Sri P Ramlee, Saloma and Teresa Teng.

The concert which started at about 7.30pm opened with the orchestra playing 'Putus Sudah Kasih Sayang'. And then amidst genteel applause, Tan Soo Suan came on stage and sang Selling the Dumpling, How Can I ever Forget Him and Lover.

Tan has this beautiful voice that is so sincere that you will believe whatever she sings. It is as if she lived through the sorrow, joy or laughter depicted in the songs.

After an interlude where the orchestra played When will You Return, Tan came back and sang The Villager, Story of a Small Town, What have You got to say and Sweetly.

The Malay numbers came after an interval.

Tan came back after that with an interesting rendition of Bila Larut Malam, followed by Ye Lai Xiang and Lenggang Kangkong as well as Ikan Kekek.

After that Liau Siau Suan entered the stage and sang old time favourites, Di Mana Kan Ku cari Ganti, Engkau Lak-sana Bulan, Getaran Jiwa and Bunyi Guitar.

After that Tan joined Liau and they sang Madu Tiga.

The audience enjoyed the concert so much there were calls of 'encore'. Liau and Tan came back to perform two extra songs before gracefully exiting.

The Dama Orchestra was part of the activities during the Sandakan Fest, which is currently ongoing.



By ANNA VIVIENNE

