



PHOTOS BY THE STRAITS TIMES

Celebrating five years of ChildAid: Singapore Press Holdings chairman Tony Tan (in floral shirt), the guest of honour, with Genting chairman and CEO Lim Kok Thay, at the concert last night, which saw a total of 274 talented young performers taking to the stage

Young talent stars at ChildAid concert

By NISHA RAMCHANDANI

[SINGAPORE] Stars of all stripes were shining in full force last night at charity concert ChildAid.

A total of 274 talented young performers took to the stage, including a 70-strong orchestra led by Wang Ya-Hui, music director for the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

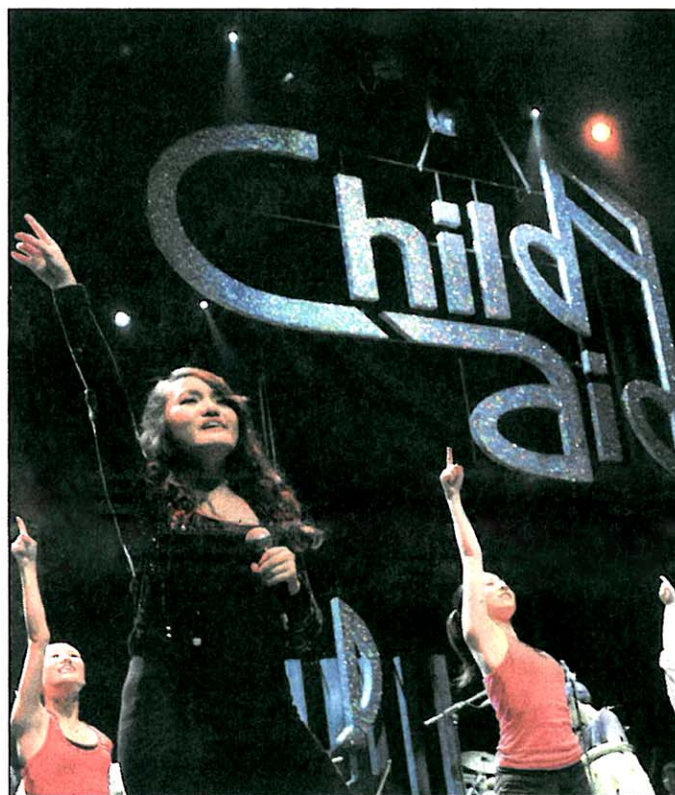
ChildAid - which kicked off on Saturday - is being held at the Festive Grand Theatre in Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), ahead of the integrated resort's official opening next year. Singapore Press Holdings chairman Tony Tan was the guest of honour last night.

In its fifth year this year, ChildAid has been an eye-opener for many of the young talents who star in it, including 15-year-old vocalist Amni Musfirah, who sang Iskandar Ismail's original composition *Stars Out Tonight*.

"I learnt that my voice is my gift and I can share it with society. Performing at ChildAid... is different because you're doing it for charity," said Amni, a student at the School of the Arts who is also ambassador of the Business Times Budding Artists Fund. "It's a really great feeling."

Performers also come from neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

Kevin Dwi Tjahja from Indonesia was drawn to the ChildAid concept since it seeks to help needy children and showcase talented youth at the same time.



Entertaining: Performers at the ChildAid concert wowed the 1,600 strong audience at Resorts World Sentosa

"I'm proud to be part of this performance," he told BT. He was one of seven drummers and percussionists on stage last night.

Performers from Malaysia include nine-year-old singer and pianist Jayson Cheah and 17-year-old Ikhwal Hafiz Ismail, who can sing in 14 different languages including Spanish, Korean and Hindi.

This year, over \$1 million was raised for ChildAid, doubling the \$506,000 raised last year.

Despite the recession, or-

ganisations such as Citibank, Stuttgart Auto, HS-BC, New Creation Church and Cerebos doubled their donations from last year.

The corporate sector also threw its support behind the charity concert by coming on board as sponsors. Some of the stars were dressed in Guess Jeans and Guess Kids as Guess was the clothing sponsor, while other companies such as Yamaha and Maybelline volunteered their services for charity. RWS was the venue and production partner.

Proceeds from the concert, and from food and beverages sold at the venue, go to The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and The BT Budding Artists Fund.

Set up by The Arts House in 2004 and adopted by BT in 2005, the BT Budding Artists Fund helps un-

der-privileged children develop their artistic talents. Each year, 1,000 needy children attend art courses under the fund.

Tonight is the third and final performance of this year's edition of ChildAid. All tickets are sold out.

For further information, please go to www.straitstimes.com/childaid