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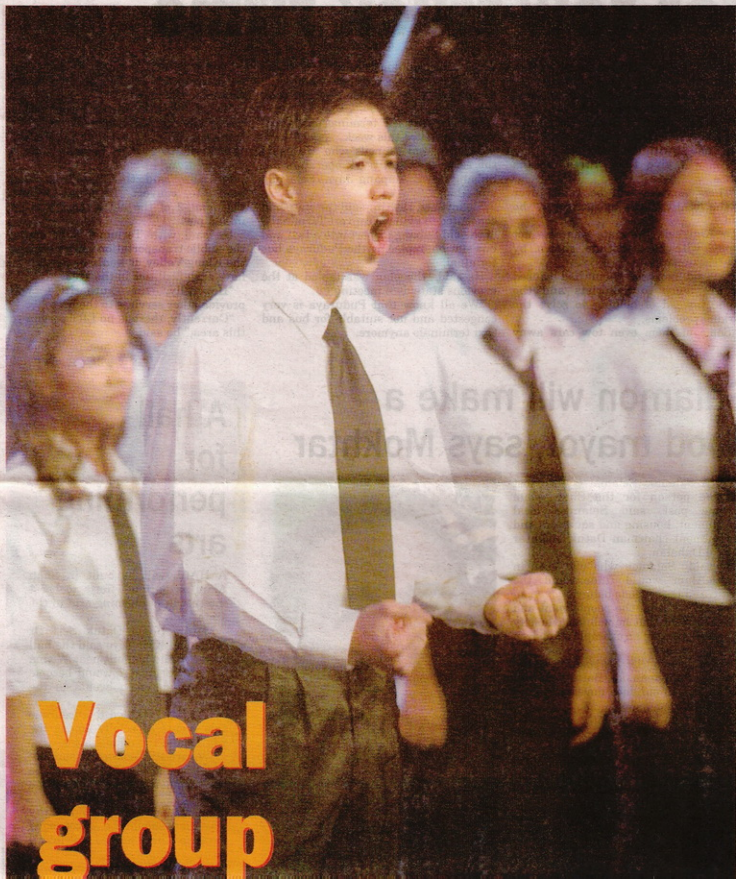


Photo by SIA HONG KIU

Vocal group

Tri

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For



Memorable debut for young singers

Above: Lim, an engineer by day and singer by night, delivering an expressive rendition.

Left: The Young KL Singers performing the song, 'Hail Holy Queen' from the movie 'Sister Act.'

Below: Lee (right) singing with the group in their debut performance.

By **NUR HAJAR MOHD**
Photos by **SIA HONG KIAU**

AT 11, Melanie Lyn is determined to make a career in singing.

And as one of the 50 members of The Young KL Singers, Melanie is confident that her ambition may become a reality.

Thanks to Susanna Saw, her husband Chow Wei Heng and other music enthusiasts who formed The Young KL Singers, many talented youths in Kuala Lumpur now have the opportunity to show their singing skills.

"I started my vocal training early this year," said the Sri Inai pupil who loves singing in the shower. "When my mother saw the advertisement about The Young KL Singers in the paper, she told me to give it a try and the next thing I know, I am the youngest member in the group," said Melanie.

The idea of The Young KL

Singers is to showcase some of the best vocal talents the valley has to offer. "We picked 50 out of 62 people from our audition. Those selected don't necessarily have formal music education or background as training is provided," said Saw.

"We look forward to working with committed young singers," she added.

Those picked were divided into two groups. One group comprises talents aged 11 to 20 while the other is made up by those aged 21 and above.

For engineer Albert Lim, singing had always been something he wanted to try but never got around to until his daughter joined a choir that was managed by Saw in Ipoh.

After a few lessons, Lim enjoyed singing so much he joined Saw in her choir.

Saw instils confidence in her choir members.

"One of the most important thing to remember as a member of the Young KL Singers is to always

have fun when you are singing.

"Don't worry about making a mistake or having a memory lapse," she told her group at their debut performance on Monday at Actors Studio Bangsar.

To be confident enough to get on stage and sing in front of strangers is a big leap for many of them.

"Some have experience in singing in front of a crowd while others don't," said Saw.

But judging from the expressions on their faces, there is nowhere else they would rather be that night except to sing under the bright lights of the stage.

Although it was their first performance together, the group gave an admirable show.

Saw said the group had nine weeks of rehearsal, which was held



every Monday for four hours.

During the rehearsals, members are given training in performance and presentation of a wide range of musical genres such as pop, folk, jazz and musical theatre.

They are also taught vocal techniques and voice projection.

In their debut show, the group performed 10 songs that included *Danny Boy*, *Every Time I Feel The*

Spirit, *Kum Ba Yah*, *Autumn Song*, *Seasons of Love*, *Hail Holy Queen* and *Time To Say Goodbye*.

Among the special guests in the show were soloist Janet Lee, Joel Benedict Wong and pianist Tracy Wong.

The group will be staging their second performance in mid-December.

According to Saw, the show will feature a World Music programme with songs from different nations.

The group is planning a project on a bigger scale next year.

"We are thinking of doing a concert on a Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical," said Chow, adding that The Young KL Singers are recruiting more members.

Those interested can call the Actors Studio Bangsar at 03-254 0400/1400 or Saw at 012-506 3533.