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Concert of love

THE star-studded Konsert Stanza Cinta is on at Istana Budaya, Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur at 8.30pm today and tomorrow.

A 30th "birthday celebration" for co-organiser Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in Sintok, Kedah, recognises the best of Malaysian music and has universal love as its theme.

Award-winning rock legend Amy of Search aka Suhaimi Abdul Rahman headlines the concert which features many of his and Search's evergreen hits. He is backed by the acclaimed National Symphony Orchestra (OSK).

Istana Budaya director-general Datuk Juhari Shaarani says the concert will primarily feature "current favourites" of Malaysian music, namely Sarawak-born Noh Salleh, the charismatic lead vocalist of award-winning rock group Hujan, *Malaysian Idol 1* winner and vocal powerhouse Jaclyn Victor, *Akademi Fantasia* Season 8 runner-up from Ranau, Sabah, Adira Suhaimi, and "new generation" Asli music specialist Haziq Rosebi, a graduate of *Akademi Fantasia 4*.

In addition to the artistes, talented vocalists and musicians from UUM will also present their own pieces in the two-hour concert.

Juhari says the concert is meant to showcase heart-warming and moving songs centred on love, in all its manifestations, by the current crop of award-winning singers.

He says having Amy on board is specially to pay tribute to the country's evergreen music legends.

Furthermore, Amy has been an outstanding mentor to the young singers, having participated in TV3 talent search *Mentor* Season 2 in 2006, and serving as the principal of *Akademi Fantasia* Season 9 in 2011.

Juhari says the national theatre's main stage, Panggung Sari, will be decorated to reflect the concert's theme.

Jaclyn is riding high on the local music charts with *Ikut Rentakku*, her hit song which won Best Vocals in the recent Anugerah Juara Lagu 2013.

In Anugerah Industri Muzik 2012 she won Best Vocals, Best Musical Arrangement (by Aubrey Suwito) and Best English Song for *Counting Days*.

Noh founded Hujan in 2006 and the band's other members are Hezry Hafidz, Azham Ahmad, Hang Dimas and Izzat Huzaini.

Its first album was *1, 2, 3, Go!* which was launched that year.

In 2009 the band won Best Rock Album in Anugerah Industri Muzik, and last year it went on the hugely popular Sang Enemy Worldwide Transgression Tour.

Hujan has had four studio albums to date, the latest being *Sang Enemy* in 2012.

The band performed in Dewan Filharmonik Petronas (DFP) late last year, too.

Adira first found fame with her hit single *Ku Ada Kamu*, produced by KRU in 2010.

Since then she has had a string of hits which have been featured in telemovie and movie soundtracks, the most famous of which is the theme from *Ombak Rindu*, a duet with Sarawakian singer Hafiz Suip.

Adira has also dabbled in acting, and appeared with Singaporean actor Aliff Aziz in the series *Tiara*, and was involved in the Bahasa Malaysia voiceover edition of Hollywood film *Spider-Man*, voicing Kirsten Dunst's character Mary Jane Watson.

Haziq, from Kluang, Johor, has performed with the late, great Asli singer Datuk Ahmad Jais and Datuk Yusni Hamid in the national theatre, and cites Ahmad, Yusni, Noraniza Idris, Datuk Jamal Abdillah and Asmawi Ani as his major influences.

He regularly appears on Radio Televisyen Malaysia's variety shows and recently graduated with a diploma in sound and music engineering from a local college.

Haziq's debut album *Zapin Suri* was released in 2008.

Tickets: RM53-RM303. Call 03-4147 8600.

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Amy Search (left) and Adira Suhaimi