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Let's hear it for the kids

By **K.W. MAK**

THE children filled the entire auditorium with their voices, hitting all the right notes as they delighted the audience at the Securities Commission Auditorium recently.

The event was the Great Eastern Childrencare 'Life is great!' Across Borders Concert Recital by the Operafest Children's Choir, with a special appearance by the Piedmont Children's Choir from San Francisco, United States.

The American choir group opened the recital with an outstanding display of vocal techniques during the first half of the performance.

The Operafest Children's Choir then thrilled the crowd under the direction of Operafest director Kam Sun-Yoke with repertoires from renowned composers like Strauss, Verdi and Brahms, including a classic from the late Tan Sri P.Ramlee, 'Getaran Jiwa.'



Children from Operafest performing at the recital.

The Piedmont Children's Choir is a world-renowned choral group that has won various honours and awards including three gold medals at the Choral Olympics in Linz.

Executive director Susan Rahl and artistic director Robert Geary founded the group in 1982 and it currently has an enrolment of 350 students and is now on an international tour.

Promoting the arts and to provide sound education through music was the sole purpose of Operafest's formation back in 1987. The group was the first Malaysian choir to bag first runner-up at the famous Llangollen International Esiteddfold with a rendition of Purcell's 'Sound The Trumpet.'

Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad senior vice-president and head of human capital Nancy Lim said the RM20,000 sponsorship of the concert recital was in support of Great Eastern's ChildrenCare charity project.

"This is just one of our ways to promote the performing arts in Malaysia whilst extending a caring hand to underprivileged children," said Lim.

Some 70 children from several homes including Sunbeams Home, Rumah Ozanam, House of Joy, Persatuan Rumah Kids

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(Compassion Home) and Rumah Kebajikan Anbu Illam were among the crowd enjoying the concert recital.

Launched in 1995, ChildrenCare was initiated to instil the spirit of caring and sharing among staff and members of Great Eastern's agency force and has donated almost RM1mil to more than 70 children's charities across Malaysia.

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