

Sinfonietta surpasses itself

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The Siam Sinfonietta has won a top prize at the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival in Vienna.



It was a major feather in their cap for the members of the youth orchestra founded by Somtow Sucharitkul, the well-known composer and conductor. The Sinfonietta was led at the competition by Trisdee Na Pattalung, a young man who is perhaps the most promising classical music conductor to emerge in Thailand in recent years.

The Sinfonietta played Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Purgatorio from Mahler's Symphony No.10 (arranged by Somtow).

They also played a composition by Trisdee called Eternity and concluded their performance with an excerpt from Somtow's Suriyothai Suite.

The Thai ensemble surprised many by snatching the victory from leading groups hailing from the US, Denmark and Australia.

The Sinfonietta was founded in 2010 by Somtow to encourage young people with passion and skill to become professional classical musicians.

Children as young as 12 audition for a place and the orchestra has an upper age limit of 25.

Somtow's idea is to push young musicians to play "challenging works of the core repertoire" _ and there was no clearer indication of that than including a Mahler piece in their programme.

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