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Classical guitar plucks Royal tunes

A NEW APPROACH to classical guitar musical compositions is about to make a debut in Thailand.

The St Cecilia Academy of Music will present a concert by famous German classical guitarist Hucky Eichelmann who will for the first time play musical compositions of His Majesty the King.

Scheduled for September 1 at the AUA Auditorium, proceeds will go to the Sai Jai Thai Foundation.

Usually there are specific compositions for classical guitar concerts but St Cecilia School Headmaster, Kett-aran Lertphipat, felt that there should be a new approach to bring classical guitar concerts closer to the Thai audience.

Together with Anuwat Seubsuwan, musical compositions instructor of St Cecilia, they decided that the best way to bring the classical guitar closer to Bangkok audiences was by playing the already popular songs of His Majesty the King.

Such songs as 'Falling Rain' (Sai Fon), 'Near Dawn' (Klai Rung), and 'Candlelight Blues' (Saeng Tien) will be the highlight of the coming concert.

His Majesty the King's compositions are not only popular in Thailand but they have been played in international music concerts throughout the world. Japan's NHK concert has played His Majesty's compositions to huge audiences.

Work on this concert began in September of last year. Khun Anuwat re-organized the Royal tunes into string quartets.

It took six months to adapt the melodies for the classical guitar. According to Headmaster Kett-aran, the number of classical guitar students has, in the past three to four years, increased steadily. Today it seems that the classical guitar is equal in popularity to the piano.

HUCKY EICHELMANN (left), who will for the first time play musical compositions of His Majesty on the classical guitar.