

DBKL's festival showcases 14 orchestral ensembles at 10 venues

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KUALA Lumpur is set to transform into a vibrant cultural soundscape with the return of Kuala Lumpur Orchestra Festival (FOKL).

Now in its second edition, the festival runs until June 29, taking place at selected venues across the city.

Organised by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), this year's festival showcases 14 local and international orchestral ensembles, bringing together over 1,200 musicians.

"This is not just about music – it's about creating inclusive and impactful cultural experiences," said DBKL Socioeconomic Development executive director Ismadi Sakirin at the festival's pre-launch.

"Beyond contributing to the growth of orchestral music, the festival also enhances KL's reputation as a cultural hub."

Also present at the launch were DBKL Culture, Arts, Tourism and Sport Department



Ismadi says the festival will position Kuala Lumpur as a cultural hub.

director Naquib Hamdan, DBKL Music Unit head Isabella Pek, DBKL Culture, Art, Tourism and Sports senior deputy director Izwan Razif and Kuala Lumpur Society vice-president Jack Lim.

Ismadi noted that FOKL will expand its reach this year, taking place at 10 locations, up from just three last year – an indication of DBKL's growing commitment to the initiative.

Festival venues include Audi-



(Seated, from left) Izwan, Lim, Ismadi, Naquib and Pek at the event's pre-launch in Kuala Lumpur. — Courtesy of DBKL

torium DBKL and Dataran DBKL at DBKL headquarters, DBKL's training institute in Cheras, Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS, and the River of Life area in Masjid Jamek.

The programme also features workshops led by musicians from across Asia, including Japan, China and Thailand.

To nurture the next generation of talent, the festival will spotlight performances by schoolchildren and youth ensembles.

According to a DBKL statement, over 60 schools have been invited to attend selected performances.

To promote accessibility, DBKL is collaborating with GNB Dis-

abled Welfare Association to ensure people with disabilities can attend the concerts.

FOKL will also include a charity performance in support of the Malaysian Association for the Blind.

Admission is free. For schedule of performances, venues and showtimes, visit fokl.my