

There is no guarantee that someone else will not get
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decide to interpret the song in an entirely new way. — June Tan

1012

News 3

FRIDAY 7 February 2003

Metro

Jazz group enlivens KK night life



JAM SESSION: Vincent chatting with June at ShangriLa's Tanjung Aru Resort in Kota Kinabalu.

BEING the gateway to Mount Kinabalu and the Tunku Abdul Rahman marine park, Kota Kinabalu is renowned for many things.

Now, the city is making a name for itself in the jazz music scene.

Previously, the city's music scene comprised largely local and foreign "show bands" playing at various nightspots.

However, a Penang-born lawyer, a school teacher and their two friends adding variety to the state capital's night scene by performing as a jazz quartet at ShangriLa's Tanjung Aru Resort here.

June Tan Sooi Ee, a musically talented full-time lawyer, secondary school music teacher Vincent Chin See Yun, Ahmad 'Roger' Mohamad and Rahman Ngasio make up the JV Quartet, which performs every Sunday from 8.30pm to 10pm at the resort.

June plays the piano, Vincent is either on the saxophone or clarinet, Roger plays the

drums, while Rahman is the group's bassist.

The group also performs soul jazz and R&B music and their performances have received a great response from local jazz lovers and tourists.

"Well done," said an Australian after listening to the quartet's two-hour performance at the resort's Borneo Lounge.

The attention the group is receiving is no surprise to Vincent.

"The local audience is definitely ready for jazz," he said.

June, who came to Sabah in 1979 to work as a Yamaha Music School instructor, said the group takes classic pieces such as "What a difference a day makes" and gives it a samba twist.

"Each time we play a song, it sounds different. One of us may decide to interpret the song in an entirely new way.

"It's much more fun that way," she added.