

World's top string players at the **PATTAYA GUITAR FEST**

Now in its third year, the Pattaya Classical Guitar Festival & Competition 2011 will be held Oct. 29, Saturday, at the Siam Bayshore Resort & Spa on Beach Road.

The only event of its kind in Thailand, it will showcase many of the world's top guitar makers and musicians. It is open to the public, with collectors, players, music lovers, students and general enthusiasts strongly encouraged to attend.

The festival is surely the biggest and most vibrant event for classical guitar aficionados and music lovers on the Eastern Seaboard. It boasts an impressive list of guest artists, luthiers and

students from America, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, the Philippines and Thailand.

This event will kick off with the adult and junior guitar competitions at 9:30 a.m., followed by a guitar exhibition at 1 p.m., the Thailand Guitar Society student concert at 2 p.m.

An afternoon concert with guitar virtuoso Hitoshi Miyashita will be held at 4:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., Woratep Rattana-umpawan, Santi Kaewjai and the Wong-Kojorn Guitar Quarter will go onstage for the "master concert." The day will then culminate with a spectacular "guitar night" concert at 8 p.m. featuring the expert strumming of Leon Koudelak, Monching Carpio, Tomonori Arai

and Paul Cesarczyk.

The Wong-Kojorn Guitar Quartet is a new group of highly gifted and experienced musicians coming out of Bangkok. Since their well-received and acclaimed debut concert on Sept. 18 at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center (BACC), the quartet has received significant interest from the public and media.

The quartet consists of Yutthasak Komjornkijborworn, Chavajed Maskulrat, Nalin Phuangkhuamsuk and Pongpat Pongpradit. All four are award-winners who have studied in Europe and America with world-renowned guitarists and teachers. As solo artists they have all individually performed in numerous concerts and festivals around the globe.

The repertoire of the Wong-Kojorn Guitar Quartet ranges from baroque to contemporary compositions. This highly promising new group is a "must see" for all guitar fans and aficionados.

The first prize in the adult competition is a guitar worth US \$3,000 and made by the world renowned Indonesian luthier Hanief Palopo. Proceeds from the festival will go to the Father Ray Foundation that cares for more than 850 orphaned children, street children, blind children and young disabled adults.

Admission, which includes coffee, is Bt500 for adults and Bt400 for students (with valid I.D.). A special accommodation package, inclusive of breakfast and festival ticket, is available for Bt3,000 (single) and Bt3,500 (twin) per night. To reserve a ticket or book a room at the Siam Bayshore Resort & Spa, call 038-428-678 or 081-6811-304. Visit www.thailandguitarfestival.com or www.siamhotels.com to know more about the event.

