

# Young talents gear up for 'electrifying' charity concert

By JASMINE NG

[SINGAPORE] Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi aren't the only musicians with charitable hearts. A cast of 210 youth will be performing for the annual charity concert ChildAid next month.

They will sing, dance or play musical instruments at the concert on Dec 7 and 8 at Marina Bay Sands Grand Theater, the official venue partner this year and the next two years.

The public can buy tickets priced at \$18 or \$38 to the shows through the MBS ticketing website when they go on sale today.

The two-and-a-half hour show will juxtapose different music and dance genres and give a twist to classic and pop songs.

The annual event is in aid of The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and The Business Times Budding Artists Fund.

Now in its eighth edition, artistic director Iskandar Ismail said there will be new elements to ChildAid this year, in line with its theme Electric Edition.

"Even the orchestra will be playing a contemporary piece where there are sections for soloists to improvise their segments instead of playing to every note that is in the score," said the 2008 Cultural Medallion recipient.



**ChildAid performers:** Rock band Dice (above), a group of Koreans studying at NUS High, and YouTube sensation Clarence Liew (left). Tickets go on sale today. ST & TNP FILE PHOTOS

Among those in the line-up is brother-and-sister team James and Jaz Loh, aged 15 and 14, who will perform on the electric cello and violin.

The influence of YouTube, a popular platform for young people to express their creativity and put a spin to popular songs, can also be felt in the concert.

A band made up of five Korean teens will inject a rock ambience to Korean rapper Psy's Gangnam Style, which went viral on YouTube.

Another act will be a rendition of Carly Rae Jepsen's hit, Call Me Maybe, which gained popularity through YouTube.

"The feel of the concert will be more eclectic, edgy and full of interesting genre juxtapositions. There are direct inputs from the performers as to what they wish to perform," said show director Jeremiah Choy of Orangedot Productions.

Clarence Liew aka CLO, 20, who performed at the YouTube Stars concert in

May, will be singing a medley of popular songs with other performers. He has more than 2,000 fans on YouTube.

Homegrown violinist Gabriel Ng, 17, who won the HSBC Youth Excellence Award in 2006, as well as the Best Bach Performance prize at the Menuhin Violin Competition this year, will fly back from London where he is based to perform in the concert.

"At the launch of ChildAid 2012 earlier this year, we said that this year's concert will be bigger, better and brighter. Now that I have seen our final list of young performers, I dare say that it will be one of our best ever," said Alvin Tay, ChildAid organising chairman and editor of *The Business Times*.