Kan Yaw Chong

KOTA KINABALU: Known for the angelic voice, the world-renowned 25-strong Vienna Boys Choir arrived here Thursday night from Taipei for two-night charity shows at Dewan Cancelor UMS tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

With a 500-year history behind them, the choir is rated the most famous of its kind in the world.

 Asked if Sabahans can expect a great show, Istanbul-born conductor Kerem Sezen said: "You are the judge."

"We are giving our best, hopefully, great moments when you enjoy yourselves, feel the boys, feel their energy, the music and, hopefully, there'll be moments when you cry and feel sad but leave happy."

Asked what they'll perform here, Kerem said: "A variety of repertoire, starting with the basement as we are founded - sacred music, classical music like Hayden, Mozart and Schubert. We have some parts with Austrian folk music, Strauss, world music - singing in French, Italian and we also brought in music from China, Taiwan, entertainment, do some gospel, invite audience to clap and sing together - a big variety of styles," Kerem said.

The Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu under District Governor Edward Sung Burongoh is the brainchild behind the Choir's second visit here in nine years (Lawrence Thien organised the first visit).

"The purpose is to raise funds for dialysis, avoidable blindness, water-related Rotary community service projects, etc," said organising chairman, lawyer Jeyan Marimuthu.

Asked why the Club brought the Choir in a second time, Jeyan said: "Because of the good demand in the first round even though tickets were priced at RM500 then."

"Public response is good but we can do better," Jeyan said. Kerem will conduct a workshop for local choirs and schools at UMS tomorrow (Saturday).

Jeyan said that has attracted a maximum response of 300, indicative of public confidence in the Choir.