

## **Kedaulatan Rakyat (People's Democracy)**

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### **Swara Sonora Trio's performance ANSWERS CLASSICAL MUSIC'S LONGING**

Jogjakarta (KR / PD) – Witnessing the performance of Swara Sonora Trio at the Concert Hall ISI Yogyakarta, Monday night (August 10, 2009) made us feel that we've gone through a history of classical music. Almost all of the classical music presented by this group from Tucson, Arizona, United States started from the classical oratorio works from Europe until the more recent Broadway show-stopper tunes. The performance was presented in a grand, first class manner.

**With a supreme technical ability and graceful hand movements by pianist Aryo Wicaksono, and adding a consistent, steady (intonation) and rhythmical beautiful voice of soprano Kathryn Mueller and a grandiose baritone voice of Nathan Krueger, the concert (presenting 14 numbers from different composers) were captivating the audience throughout. The concert truly answered the needs of classical music lover for a high quality classical recital.**

Swara Sonora Trio is a chamber music group consists of three successful and dedicated soloists who are active as performers and educators in the United States. They were formed five years ago. In their active career as a group they have presented chamber music concerts that featured diverse musical works from the past until present (such as new commissions) and combine the musical themes with an interdisciplinary edge, such as social themes or humanitarian aspects. They even would not mind working with young upcoming composers with their new and innovative works.

When interviewed after the concert, pianist Aryo Wicaksono said that this concert is one of the four tour concerts planned in Indonesia to benefit UNICEF Indonesia to support programs for Indonesian children and also to give an appreciation of music to a wider audience. In addition, they have an additional mission of helping the musical growth by giving lectures, master classes, and collaboration with local musicians.

“This is our first visit to Jogjakarta, after spending a week in Jakarta. I didn't expect that the appreciation to the programs we presented tonight were really great, and what surprised me is that the majority of the audiences are young people and students. And this is a proof that Indonesia is really safe and worthy to be visited despite the recent bombing tragedy in Jakarta a few weeks earlier,” said Aryo.

While, according to Prof. Dr. Triyono Bramantyo, Dean of the Performing Arts College of ISI Jogjakarta, this Swara Sonora Trio Chamber Music Concert is “one of the few concerts planned to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of ISI. If in the past ISI has presented lots of local traditional arts such as wayang, gamelan, and traditional dance performance, now this time the classical music lovers will get spoiled.”

“I have heard a lot about this group (Swara Sonora Trio) performing in many events and venues in the United States and Europe. Since one of the members is of Indonesian origin, I thought that we should invite them to perform here,” says Dean Bramantyo. “Luckily, we got a very good response when we proposed them about this concert so we didn't have any problems to persuade them to come and perform and teach at ISI,” he explained.