



**Musical prodigy:** A young pianist from Digital Music taking the stage.



**We did it!:** Champion of the talent search Ooi (centre), flanked by second placed Low (left) and third placed Lim.



**Crowd teaser:** A belly dance performance by Let's Dance! Studio.

# Brimming with talents

Singers, dancers and musicians in their element

**C**OLLEGE student Wendy Ooi joined the Galaxie & Youth Carnival talent search hoping to finish among the top and bag some prize money.

But after a masterful performance, the 21-year-old not just fulfilled her wish but also surprised herself by bagging the very crown.

Rendering the heart-wrenching Chinese number 'Jian Ai', backed up by partner Lim Tiong Aik on the guitar, her soulful solo saw her narrowly edging out beatboxing crowd favourite Low U Shane to the crown, taking home a cash prize, trophy and other goodies.

"To be honest, I wasn't very confident about my chances as I was singing unplugged. The beatboxer (Low) gave a great performance. A talent search isn't just a singing competition, as all competitors have equally impressive talents," a modest Ooi, who is a mass communications student, said.

Second place winner Low, 17, was impressive with his beatboxing and drew huge cheers from the audience at the end of his performance. Using only his voice, he produced beats and rhythms that were so realistic, one could have been forgiven for thinking it came from the sound system.

The SMK Heng Ee student said he learnt the skill after getting hooked on it from watching video clips, and practised whenever he had free time.

His friends, impressed with his abilities,

urged him to showcase his talent by signing up for the talent search.

Ooi's partner Lim, who also performed a solo guitar number, grabbed a double bonus as his routine earned him the third prize. Strumming Maroon 5's 'She Will Be Loved', the 27-year old financier showed he was as equally adept at taking centre stage as he was being a backup guitarist.

"I have loved singing since my high school days. There were so many good performances that I never expected to emerge with two prizes," Lim added.

The Pang sisters were among the consolation prize winners with their modern dance routine. The trio, comprising Yi Sha, 19, Yi Chuen, 18, and Yi Jia, 17, said that dancing was something they all loved, and they jumped at the chance to join the contest.

Earlier, the crowd were treated to a Michael Jackson impersonation by Astin Tan, who danced to the beat of tunes like 'Billie Jean' and 'Dangerous'.

There were also several dance performances, a belly dance routine by Let's Dance! Studio, hip hop and street dancing by Danzity, and yoga and kickboxing by Celebrity Fitness.

Talented young musicians from Digital Music Systems also serenaded the crowd with some beautiful numbers, including a song specially composed and dedicated to Galaxie by director Fong Peng Chuan.