



Far left: Legendary conductor Yevgeni Svetlanov is bringing the USSR State Symphony Orchestra to Bangkok for their first concert come April 28.

Left: Those at the Shangri-La Hotel, like most every property in the city, are getting ready for Songkran Festival to take place next Thursday.

World class treats for Bangkokians

THE *Juke* PAGE

BANGKOK's entertainment scene will be pulsating with world-class treats this month.

As soon as Pro & Ad International announced the "wizard of ballet" Rudolf Nureyev would dance for the first and last time in Bangkok as part of his farewell tour at the Thailand Cultural Centre on April 22, the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra Foundation quickly let out another piece of great news.

The legendary conductor Yevgeni Svetlanov will conduct the USSR State Symphony Orchestra in a single concert in Bangkok on April 28. Also set for the Thailand Cultural Centre, this special date will mark the first stop of this orchestra, one of the world's finest, on their first Asian tour.

The chief conductor/artistic di-



the 106 virtuosi in a programme of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 1.

The soloist, the acclaimed Russian violinist Andrei Korsakov, will bring his classically Russian technique to the interpretation of this universally loved Russian masterpiece.

Founded by special government decree in 1936 with Alexander Gauk as chief conductor, the orchestra members dedicated their lives to fighting against Nazi invaders during the war years. In 1956, they undertook an overseas tour, winning the admiration from great international conductors.

The arrival of Svetlanov — a piano graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire and Gauk's student in conducting and composition — in 1965 helped establish their name. With Svetlanov's brilliant artistry and its many international tours and recordings, the group soon rose to, and remains in, the ranks of world's finest.

Tickets for this choice musical evening priced at 300, 500, 800, 1,000 and 1,200 baht will be available as of April 19 at Asia Books (Sukhumvit), DK Books (Siam Square) and BSO advance box office (251-7948).

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SAO SAO SAO (Girl, Girl, Girl) is setting out on the road to international fame when they fly to Tokyo next month.

The three girls who have 10 albums — in Thai, English and Japanese — to their credit, have been chosen to represent Thailand at the forthcoming Tokyo Music Festival at the Budokan Hall on May 30.

This will be the third time Thailand has participated in this annual convention of the world's pop stars organised by the Kyodo Tokyo Company. Anchalee Chonghadikij was the first Thai artist to carry the Thai flag in this international show. She was followed by Punn.

And this year, Sao Sao Sao will be brushing shoulders with such celebrities as Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire, Jody Watley, Johnny Hates Jazz, as well as Kool & The Gang, among many others. Congratulations, girls.

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AND here is music on a really strong note...

The Ramkhamhaeng University Students' Union and a group of people who are campaigning against the Bangkok-Chaengwatana Expressway Project are joining hands to organise a fundraising afternoon of music, a live talk show, plus other entertainment this Sunday.

Starting at 2 p.m., a parade of celebrities including Add Carabao,



Add Carabao (above) and Caravan (upper right) will be among the hot attractions at the Anti Bangkok-Chaengwatana Expressway Concert at Ramkhamhaeng University this weekend.

Above centre: Jamie Chik or Chik Mei Chun enchants all at the Galaxy till Sunday.

Above right: Barbara Segal leads a troupe of performers in "An Evening of Opera" at Hotel Siam Inter-Continental next week.

Right: Noppol Komarachun and Sulaleewan Suwannat star in "Baan... Mai Roo Roey", to be serialised on TV 9 from April 12 onwards.



Caravan, Pongthep Kradonchaman, Khon Dan Kwien, famous rhetorician/Bangkok MP Tinnawat Marukhapitak, and singer-turn-MP Suthep Wongkhamhaeng will take to the stage to play music and give a talk show on the theme of opposing the expressway project.

SEA Write poet Naowarat Pongpaibul will delight the crowd with his solo flute performance, and lending the finale a funny touch will be Thailand's King of Comedy Lor Tok and his troupe.

The event will solicit public donations to finance further campaigning by the committee.

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THS traditional Thai New Year, Songkran Day, is but few days away. And if you fancy water

splashing (or sprinkling) fun, head to the Visutkasat area on April 13. The colourful festival will take place just like every year.

For those who dread the scorching sun however, there are various hotels offering traditional fare and activities in the luxury atmosphere. Check your favourite hotels and entertainment places.

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IF Jamie Chik or Chik Mei Chun is your TV idol, try her first Bangkok concert at the Galaxy Theatre/Nightclub/Restaurant. You have till Sunday to enjoy her beautiful voice and style.

The Hong Kong star who has impressed Chinese communities worldwide with her TV roles, also captured the hearts of Thais nationwide when she appeared on



TOP POPS

London

MADONNA'S "Like a Prayer" held onto the top spot on the British pop singles record chart for the fourth straight week.

"Straight Up" by Paula Abdul moved up two notchers to second position, followed by "Keep on Movin'" by Soul II Soul and Caron Wheeler, "This Time I Know It's for Real" by Donna Summer and "Eternal Flame" by Bangles.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in brackets:

1. (1) Like a Prayer — Madonna (Sire).
2. (4) Straight Up — Paula Abdul (Siren).
3. (5) Keep on Movin' — Soul II Soul and Caron Wheeler (10 records).
4. (3) This Time I Know It's for Real — Donna Summer (Warner Bros).
5. (9) Eternal Flame — Bangles (CBS).
6. (15) I Beg Your Pardon — Kon Kan (Atlantic).
7. (2) Too Many Broken Hearts — Jason Donovan (PWL).
8. (7) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen).
9. (10) Don't Be Cruel — Bobby Brown (MCA).
10. (19) I Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet — Pat and Mick (PWL).

New York

"GIRL You Know It's True" took Milli Vanilli to the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States. The disc hopped up from second place a week ago.

"The Look" by Roxette moved up one notch to second place on the *Cash Box* magazine chart. "Eternal Flame" by the Bangles slipped from No. 1 to third position.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by *Cash Box* magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Girl You Know It's True — Milli Vanilli (Arista).
2. (3) The Look — Roxette (EMI).
3. (1) Eternal Flame — The Bangles (Columbia).
4. (5) She Drives Me Crazy — Fine Young Cannibals (IRS).
5. (11) Like a Prayer — Madonna (Sire-Warner Bros).
6. (12) Stand — R.E.M. (Warner Bros).
7. (4) My Heart Can't Tell You No — Rod Stewart (Warner Bros).
8. (6) The Living Years — Mike and the Mechanics (Atlantic).
9. (7) Walk the Dinosaur — Was (Not Was) (Chrysalis).
10. (10) Dreamin' — Vanessa Williams (Wing-Polygram).

stage to sing at the Miss Thailand Pageant on TV Channel 7 last weekend.

Catch her doing the favourite Thai ballad "Fah Young Mee Fon" at three shows daily — at lunch, dinner and nightclub shows.

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CHINTAKARN Music Institute is hosting the Jazz Music Ensemble tomorrow afternoon from 2.30-3.15.

Swedish composer/arranger/trumpeter/pianist Voyteck Ernest will play piano, while British musician/astrologer/novelist Russell Turner plays bass, with Thai drummer Mangkorn Pikaew.

The trio will perform the music of Charlie Parker, Jerome Kern and Antonio Carlos Jobin as well as Ernest's own compositions.

There's no admission. You can just walk in at the Chintakarn Music Institute Auditorium, sixth floor of Central Department Store Chidlom.

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A REMINDER for opera lovers in Bangkok... The Hotel Siam Intercontinental and Nescafe are bringing to town Britain's leading troupe to enchant all with their repertoire of selected light and popular classics.

Barbara Segal (soprano) is leading a troupe of capable performers: April Evans Montefiore (soprano), Dianne Stafford (mezzo soprano), Jeffrey Talbot (tenor) and Christopher Blades (baritone), with maestro Peter Crockford at the piano.

They will highlight the charity gala dinner, "An Evening of Op-

era", to be held on April 19 by the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Association. The performance will be graced by HRH Princess Soamsawali.

The following evening will see them at the "Bal Masque", bringing all the glamour, excitement and romance of the European balls of the 19th Century, complete with opera. The Bangkok Symphony Orchestra's Bangkok Big Band will provide music during the sumptuous dinner and later on the dance floor.

And on Friday April 21, a concert-only show of "An Evening of Opera" will start at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner evenings are priced at 800 baht, while the concert costs 100, 200 and 300 baht. Call the hotel for further details.