

From *The Myanmar Times*, vol. 8, no. 152 (Feb. 3–9, 2003)

18 vie to play in youth orchestra

A MUSIC professor from Thailand has praised the talents of 18 Myanmar aged between 14 and 23 who have auditioned for membership of the Southeast Asian Youth Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. "Their talents are very, very impressive," said Professor Gene Aitken from the College of Music at Mahidol University in Bangkok. Professor Aitken said musicians from nine Southeast Asian countries will be represented on the 91-member orchestra and the 65-member wind ensemble. The auditions began last month in Thailand and will also be held in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, Professor Aitken said. Students selected to play in either the orchestra or the ensemble will leave on April 15 for rehearsals at Mae Fah Luang University at Chiang Rai ahead of a concert tour of Thailand beginning later that month. The concerts end in early May. Students invited to participate will be provided with a return air ticket and all accommodation, meals and costs associated with the rehearsals and tour will be paid for.

-Myo Theingi Cho