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Thought after the Starry Night Concert - by Principal Bukut

Thanks so much to all of you

The Concert is over! People are now asking when is the next year's concert? People are indicating that they will back next year. From their tone implying that the Jade Mountain Starry Night Concert will inevitably continue for the years to come. For this question, I avoid positive reply. Actually two years ago, I started facing such a predicament. I was assigned to LuoNa Elementary School seven years ago. For providing platform to the kids, feeding back to the tribal people, and the respect to the LuoNa community, Jade Mountain Starry Night Concert was started. With a blink of an eye, seven years passed. The longer I stay in LuoNa, the nearer the time to say good-bye to my position in LuoNa. Thus during this year's concert, I said "It is easy to encore a song. But to encore and duplicate the Jade Mountain Starry Night Concert may not be easy; too many variables exist."

Jade Mountain Starry Night Concert provides a platform for the kids to perform in front their families and tribal people. In the meantime, we invited the famous performing groups to come to our mountain community to join the concert. This allows many tribal people, who have never been to the National Concert Hall, to listen and enjoy the high class performances. Over the pass many years, kids as well as their families are paying more attention to this concert than any other concerts. Kids are working really hard to win the position to perform. Their families are so proud of their kids being able to stand on the performing stage.

There was a Vox Nativa School's kid who has vocal problem, thus prevent him from joining the choir. We arranged him to join the Percussion Ensemble. Due to difficulties, he was not given an opportunity to perform. Until he reached 9th grade, he was finally assigned a performing role in the Percussion Ensemble. This student was so excited to acclaim "I will be on stage this year!". Families knowing this, quickly informed all their relatives and friends and invited those not even living in the tribal communities to come to watch the concert. Finally the concert time; and this kid was on stage. His role was to play cymbals. Despite of just a short play of cymbals twice, his families were so happy and proudly announced to neighbor and all that "My son is on the stage!".

Tasi WenCheng, a volunteer, wrote on his Facebook "This is a very moving gathering! During the entire performance, I noticed that every tribal person is filled with hope and pride. Because they know these kids are the hope of the tribe. Tribal elders are so proud of kids' hard work and accomplishments. This observation, while circling around the venue, was my pleasant surprise and moving. I think this is the core value of the Vox Nativa School, in addition to the choir. Education for these kids need all the love and care. Kids themselves are the very hope of future tribal

development. Jade Mountain Starry Night's value is not only the concert itself, but also the background meaningfulness of education and pride for the aborigines.

In this year's concert, per my daughter and other's suggestion, I sang a couple of verse of the song "You Raised Me Up". I wanted to use it to express my gratitude for the love and support from society and you. For the past seven years, we encountered numerous difficulties, pressure, and slander. If not for the love toward the kids, the support from you, and the strength from God, we would have given up long time ago. When the kids were singing this piece, all the pictures showing inside me were the challenging steps encountered. Many times I fought back my tears At the end, I still failed in refrained from Crying expressed my sentiment, gratitude, and moving.

From the fans' articles on Facebook, I learned that kids' voice has become the positive force of our society. We rejoice our persistence. We will carry on our persistence because this has become our responsibility. Much sentiments, much appreciation. This concert can take shape in today's form in a remote area is a miracle. Thanks to all the companies, institutions, and friends. Especially thanks to all the volunteers. You are always helping us in major or minor events. You even put away your regular job and follow us all around. Some of you consider the volunteering work as your "regular and professional" job. Not only without pay, but also receive critics and scold. (Take volunteer HaoMei as example. She is expert in advertisement. She rejected a key position offer from a company. When the boss asked her the reason. She simply replied that she wanted to continue to be a volunteer for the Vox Nativa Association.)

At the end... Thanks to
you and Thanks to all! Mihomisang.

