



Caption: Prof. Bernd Ruf rehearses with the TNUA big band, formed by students attending his crossover music workshop.

## MHL Prof. Ruf conducts big band workshop

Prof. Bernd Ruf from Musikhochschule Lübeck (MHL) conducted a big band crossover music workshop at TNUA in April.

More than students from the Department of Music, and the IMPACT (Interdisciplinary Multimedia Performing Arts Collaborative Technology) music program attended the one-week workshop.

In their discussions and rehearsals Prof. Ruf showed the workshop participants how to improvise and rearrange pieces combining classical, jazz and contemporary music.

Prof. Ruf, a pioneer in promoting crossover between classical and popular music, visited Taiwan for the first time in 2015, conducting GermanPops Orchestra in indie band Sodagreen's concert.

The big band was a form of jazz ensemble popular from the 1930s to 1950s. The big band formed by the participants of Prof. Ruf's workshop included trombone, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, oboe, piano, bass and jazz

drum players.

The big band gave a concert on April 11 to demonstrate what they had learnt at the workshop. They played a number of pieces, including: Oliver Nelson's "Early Morning"; Duke Ellington's "In a Mellow Tone"; Dieter Mack's "Sunda Jive" and "Xaveriana"; Heiner Wiberny & Arr. Peter Herbolzheimer's "Ulla in Africa"; and Jakob Lakner's "Balkan Nights."

The workshop and concert were part of the preparations for a joint concert between MHL and TNUA musicians at the 2017 Kuandu Arts Festival in October.

The workshop was a "mini course" designed to give students more varieties and flexibilities in their learning.

TNUA offers mini courses starting from Academic Year 2016. Students taking mini courses do not have to complete a full semester of learning before receiving any credits. They could receive 0.1 credit for attending a two-hour mini course.

## Thai music class presents achievements in concert



Caption: Prof. Sanchai Uaesilapa, chairperson of the Department of Music and Performing Arts at Burapha University, and Thai musician Phongsatorn Sutham, conducted a three-week course on traditional Thai music.

TNUA's Department of Traditional Music arranged a course on "Thai Music" this semester. It was jointly taught by Prof. Sanchai Uaesilapa, chairperson of the Department of Music and Performing Arts at Burapha University, and Thai musician Phongsatorn Sutham.

Under their guidance, almost 30 undergraduate and graduate students, and teaching assistants studied and rehearsed intensively for three weeks.

They presented their achievements in a concert on April 27, performing six classic Thai music pieces in two kinds of ensemble: Pi Phat and Khruang Sai.



Prof. Sanchai Uaesilapa noted that when he had last conducted a workshop at the Department of Traditional Music, he had realized how strong TNUA students in learning to play musical instruments.

Therefore, he added, this semester's course was an advanced training for playing classic Thai music pieces. As breathing is an important element in the rendition of many of the pieces, the course had a strong focus on teaching the students the control of breathing in playing the instruments and singing, he said.

Prof. Tsai Ling-Huei, chairperson of the Department of Traditional Music, noted that traditional music is like a gateway to the world, allowing one to experience the cultures of different countries.

She said the course was much advanced than any of Thai music master classes it had held before, as the pieces were much harder to play and the students had to sing in the Thai language. And the playing of the "pi-nai" was also a whole new experience for the students, she added.