Vibrant song and dance
Fest will display rich Venezuelan culture and history

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VENEZUELAN Week is back for the seventh time and is ready to take the people on a journey of true Latin American experience.

This annual event will kick off from April 16 to 29 with many activities that includes music, photography, dances, films and gastronomy at various locations in Kuala Lumpur.

Venezuelan Week was first launched in 2006 and was held by the Venezuelan Embassy as an opportunity to reinforce its ties with Malaysia by showcasing the country’s culture and history to Malaysians.

Renowned Venezuelan musician Huascar Barradas, accompanied by cuarto virtuoso Jorge Polanco and bassist/arranger Elvis Martinez, will perform at this year's event on April 23 at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas (DFP).

Barradas is a Venezuelan flutist and professor who has represented the country in many international festivals as both soloist and symphonic musician, playing a wide range of genres such as folk, jazz, classic and contemporary.

Barradas would also be holding music workshops at Mara University of Technology (UiTM) on April 19 and at the International College of Music (ICOM) on April 25.

The Venezuelan Embassy’s Charge d’Affaires Luisa Elena Lopez is confident that by the end of the month, Malaysia and Venezuela would have better understanding of each other.

“We will be a little closer to each other and take a new step towards friendship, solidarity and co-operation between our people and our governments,” she said.

She added that they will also have a forum to discuss the processes of integration with the most social content in contemporary history, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA).

Reporters were then treated to a performance by Venezuelan dancers dressed in sleeveless blouses rimmed with flowers and flowing skirts the colour of their flag as well as South-American refreshments provided for by chef Carmen Rawstrone.

Rawstrone would be in charge of the gastronomic festival in Vogue restaurant at Renaissance Hotel from April 16 to 29, where she will showcase many of her country's traditional delicacies.

A Venezuelan Party will be open to the public with free food and beverages, games and lucky draws to bring out the ‘Caribbean spirit’ on April 27 at Modesto’s @ CapSquare from 8pm to 10pm.