

Tambuli

VOL. 11, NO. 1

PUBLISHED BY THE PANDAY TINIG CHORAL ENSEMBLE

SUMMER 2007

Artists International presents Panday Tinig at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall

The Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble will be blending their voices at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York city on October 20, 2007. This up-coming presentation will be the second time for this group to showcase Philippine choral music to a New York audience.

This musical venture is being presented under the auspices of New York's Artists International. Artists International is a non-profit organization dedicated to presenting classically trained musicians in all instrumental categories including voice. According to its founder, Leo Ruiz, Panday Tinig is the first choral group to be presented by Artists International as it celebrates its 35th anniversary season.



Panday Tinig, in concert,
Alab Ng Puso,
Pollack Hall, McGill University,
June 3, 2006.

Photo: Peter Annett



Leo Ruiz, founder & director, Artists International, flanked by Paul Imperial, Panday Tinig choir director, and Editha Fedalizo, pianist.

Photo: Panday Tinig album file

The Panday Tinig is in the process of raising funds for this trip. As a registered non-profit organization under the Canada Corporations Act, donors will be issued receipts for any donation made to the Panday Tinig for income tax purposes.

For twenty-two years, the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble has been presenting Philippine choral music to Montreal audiences, highlighting the rich musical heritage of the Philippines. The 30-voice choir has presented shows in Toronto and Ottawa.

15-YEARS MEMBERSHIP HONORFFS:



ANITA LO



BELLIE RAMIREZ



MARINA OCUMEN



MARISSA MENESE

10-YEARS MEMBERSHIP HONOREES:

PANDAY TINIG TO MARK ITS 22nd ANNIVERSARY

A dinner-dance affair will be held at the Maritime Hotel in downtown Montreal on Saturday, June 9, 2007 to celebrate Panday Tinig's 22-year history of choral singing.

Honored will be Anita Lo and Bellie Ramirez, together with Marissa Meneses and Marina Ocumen, for 15 years and 10 years, respectively, of singing with the Panday Choral Ensemble.

EDITORIAL: SINGING FOR A GOOD CAUSE EQUATES "JOY"

By Editha B. Fedalizo

Now is an exciting time for the Panday Tinig, for our friends, and for our supporters! We are going to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York city and our supporters are coming with us!

During this preparatory phase, the air will pulsate with anticipation and that means, rehearsals, rehearsals, and more rehearsals for the singers.....and for our friends and supporters, it means, preparations for a bus ride, for a tour, and of course, to see and hear the Panday Tinig perform in the fabled halls of the Carnegie Hall complex.

On a more serious note, going back to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall reminds me of a piece of Panday Tinig history - that of Panday's "giving" through singing. Perhaps not many of us know that back in 1996, after having performed our 10th anniversary concert titled *AMING HANDOG-MUSIKA*, in Montreal at McGill University's Pollack Hall (October 21, 1995) and in New York at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall (November 11, 1995), the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble was able to establish a music scholarship fund at two Philippine universities - University of Santo Tomas in Manila and Siliman University in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. Our profit from this combined concert effort was not much, but the inspiration was great. We started with a small amount but added to that through the years, by way of donations and musical benefits.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Panday Tinig's riches stem from the musical talents of its singers and their willingness to share that talent without remuneration in the true spirit of volunteerism. Likewise, the Ensemble is blessed with a community of friends and family members whose generosity and support are priceless.

The Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble started its history of "giving" through its 1991 concert, *GINTONG SANDALI*, at McGill University's Pollack Hall, for the victims of the Mount Pinatubo volcanic eruption. Other musical benefits for disaster victims were held in 1996 (Saguenay-Lac St. Jean flood in Quebec); 2005 for the tsunami victims in South Asia; 2006 for the mudslide victims in Guinsaugon, Leyte, Philippines. Through its Christmas caroling and sales from its two compact discs - *Halina't Magdiwang* and *Pinagkawing Himig*, the Panday Tinig has been donating to the Gazette Christmas fund on a regular basis.

As a recipient of the 2004 Presidential **BANAAG** award, the Panday Tinig's plaque states:

2004 "Banaag" Philippine presidential award, presented by Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang Palace, to the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble for its dedication to express the richness of Philippine heritage AND FOR LENDING THEIR VOICES TOWARDS humanitarian activities in Canada and in the Philippines.

To help defray production costs, the Panday Tinig will be soliciting donations in the next coming months. Donors will be issued tax receipts for income tax purposes.

PANDAY TINIG CHORAL ENSEMBLE:

SOPRANOS:
Marivic Aplaoon
Magnolia Camat Bade
Raquel Estoque
Elvie Flores
Mellie Francisco
Anita Lo
Jee Mae Ojoylan
Theresa Pasiolan
Mynia Penaranda
Bellie Ramirez

ALTOS:
Minerva Barriga
Lilibeth Flores
Gelyn Gao-ay
Erlinda Gascon
Marissa Meneses
Marina Ocumen
Carmela Raquepo

TENORS:
Ruel Arevalo
Joselito Calizar
Jun Diaz
Willie Gomez
Jessie Pascual

BASSES:
Edward de las Alas
Peter Apelo
Gerald Castillo
Jun Lorica
Dindo Miras
Jowen Soguilon

PIANIST: *Editha B. Fedalizo*
MUSIC DIRECTOR: *Paul Imperial*

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CARD of THANKS

*Thank you to all those who opened their homes to the
Panday Tinig carolers during the past holiday season!*

*Amelia Amandoron, Helen Balaoro, Maria Vergara Capco, Jessie Francisco,
Cora Liwanag, Nelia Mendoza, Sofronio Mendoza, Ofelia Miras, Alice Paginado,
Jose Parial, Lucinia Parial, Angelita Pealane, Nenita Reyes, Pilar Reyes,
Brigida San Jose, Gaudencio San Jose, Lee Santiago & family, Lourdes Talacca,
Divisoria-Cubao Filipino Cooperative, and Filipino Masonic Lodge.*

We appreciate your support!

Pandav Tinia honors four members on its 22nd anniversary dinner-dance celebration

15-year membership awardees:

.....By BELLIE RAMIREZ



ANITA LO

Anita Lo is known as “Ninang” to Panday members because of her generosity and kindness. Anita hails from Cebu city. She enjoys singing and dancing. She joined the soprano section of the Panday Tinig in 1992. Anita has held various positions in the Panday Tinig board, serving as a treasurer, business manager, and auditor. She has accepted other responsibilities, such as locating venues for Panday parties and coordinating ticket distribution where her tact, patience, and efficiency are always put to a test. She has a daughter, Hatina, who resides in Florida.

“A million thanks to Panday Tinig for the joy of singing and for the love of friends”, that is what Bellie wants to convey.

BellieTan Ramirez was born in Cebu. Her family moved to Manila when she was just 7-years-old. She loved singing as a child and has fond memories as a member of her school’s glee club.

Bellie joined the Panday Tinig in 1992 as a member of the soprano section. She is known to Panday as “Nanay Bellie” for her roles in Panday drama-awitations. Bellie is and has been serving in the Panday Tinig as secretary and librarian for several years. She is married to Armando Ramirez. They have one son, Joel.



BELLIE RAMIREZ

10-year membership awardees:



MARINA OCUMEN

Marina Ocumen hails from Pangasinan. Marina joined Panday Tinig in 1997 as a member of the alto section. So far as she can remember, Marina always loved to sing. She competed and won in several of her hometown’s singing contests. She also plays the guitar and accompanies herself as she sings. Another talent that Marina has is an eye for photography. She has been the resident photographer for Panday Tinig. Her photos could be seen on display at the Panday Tinig rehearsal room and in Panday’s many albums.

Marissa Meneses is from Bacoor, Cavite.

Marissa joined the alto section of Panday Tinig in 1997. Marissa is known as one who strives hard to “get things right down to the last note”, as well as the correct sequence in the choreography. Marissa enjoyed singing as a child and she is a joy to behold as she sings with Panday.

Marissa is also a good cook and has served as a reception committee chairperson for Panday Tinig’s various gatherings. She is a good mother to two lovely sons, 14-year-old Patrick and 4-year-old Dustin.



MARISSA MENESES

PROFILE - ARGUILLES

Hermie is married to Alfredo Arguilles. They are blessed with a daughter, Ann-Genevieve, 34, and a son, Mark, 29. “I am very proud of my children and their accomplishments”, she said. Her daughter, just like her mother, had laurels along the way. She finished valedictorian in grade school and *summa cum laude* in Comparative Literature at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, . She holds a Masters degree also in Comparative Literature from Carlton University, Ottawa.

Hermina Arguilles, the nurse, has channeled her energy to community involvement through the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ), of which she became president for three years. “I believe that my greatest contribution to the community as a FNAQ president was the weekly ‘health awareness’ clinic held at the FAMAS center. We educated our people on the side effects of medications; we took their vital signs when needed. At community events, we held ‘first aid’ clinics.

To the youth, Hermie has this to say: “If there’s a will, there’s a way. Do not let problems get on the way. Transform them into challenges.”

PROFILE - TOLEDO...

Josie Toledo raised her two boys with the help of her mother who came from the Philippines when they were age 5. As the twins got involved in sports, Josie became active in various fundraising activities related to sports. She spoke with pride about her volunteer work at the St. Monica’s church in Notre Dame de Grace. She assisted in community celebrations, in Boy Scouts activities and was a volunteer at the St. Monica’s library for 6 years.

While her boys were growing up, Josie did evening duty ,as well as private nursing.

Now retired, Josie Toledo has taken the position as Director for human and community rights for the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ). She is also involved with teaching Filipino nursing aid students at the Gillmore College.

Josie’s advice to the youth is, “Do not be afraid to do what you want to do in life - go for it, even if you meet hindrances - eventually you will succeed if you continue to strive to reach your goal”.

PROFILE: TWO WOMEN-TWO NURSES WHO CARE for and SUPPORT the COMMUNITY

The late 60s to the early 70s was a period that offered many opportunities to Filipino professionals - doctors, nurses, and teachers, dentists, engineers, etc. - to come and work in Canada. Many of them chose Montreal. Today, this group include those who are the stalwarts and supporters of our community. A year ago, I met two of them while mentoring a group of nursing aid students at St. Margaret's Residence. Their work ethics are remarkable....their community involvements are amazing.



Hermie Cortez Arguilles recently celebrated her 70th birthday, an event which was attended by many friends, colleagues, family members, and loved ones from near and far. Among the many accolades that were spoken, one can surmise that Hermie is a "SUCCESSFUL, SELF-MADE WOMAN". In her cousin's tribute, it is mentioned... "She struggled every step of the way to make herself what she is now".

HERMIE CORTEZ ARGUILLES

Hermie was born in a small town in Iloilo, Philippines, the fourth in a family of 6 siblings. Her father was a farmer whose income was just enough to feed his family. She attended primary and secondary schools in Santa Barbara, Iloilo. Her father died when she was in the 4th grade. She had to help her mother put food on the table by helping plant rice and selling *kangkong*.

Townfolks in Hermie's village believed in the "age-old economic cycle" principle that "Whatever your parents are, so will you be". For Hermie, it wasn't so. In high school, she was an honor student, and this inspired her to strive for a higher education - the power that would allow her to move forward.

From a small town high school, she went to Manila with her cousins. She was accepted by the University of the Philippines (U.P.). "It was not easy for a small town girl like me", she recalled. "I was lost in the big city, but people were helpful. My auntie took care of me like one of her own children. In return, I studied hard and helped with the housework."

"Problems never hindered me from attaining my goals", Hermie said. "I managed to turn problems into challenges. Just like in my senior year in nursing when our class was reprimanded for having done something against the rules. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we studied hard for the board exams and as a result our class members were among the ten top-notchers for that year's board exams."

Hermie graduated from nursing in 1961. In 1962, she went to the United States where she worked for 2 ½ years as a staff nurse at the Newark Beth-Israel Hospital, New Jersey, under the Exchange Visitors' Program. At the end of her stay in the States, she read in a nursing journal that nurses were needed in Montreal. There were openings for nurses at the Jewish General Hospital. She applied and got accepted where she worked for a year, staying at the hospital's nurses' residence during her employment. She went back to the United States in 1968 but returned to Montreal a year later. This time, she worked at the Intensive Care Unit at the St. Mary's Hospital. After 6 months, Hermie became the head nurse at the Medical teaching unit, a position she held for 27 years. "It was a very rewarding job", Hermie stated. "I dealt with nurses as well as medical students. I improved myself as I taught."

As head nurse at St. Mary's, Hermie had the opportunity in the mid-seventies, to work with and nurture newly-arrived hospital-sponsored Filipino nurses in getting their Order of Nurses license to practice nursing. They were granted a year of temporary license, given a stipend, and given intensive French language courses.

Hermie did not forget to share her good fortune with her family. She helped many go to college - her younger brother, now a ship captain; her sister, now a nurse in Montreal; and others nieces who are now nurses.

PLEASE SEE PROFILE-ARGUILLES, PAGE



JOSEFINA TOLEDO

Josefina Toledo was seating next to me at Hermie Arguilles' birthday party. Being the "always-curious Panday Tinig watcher" that she is, Josie asked me about Panday's latest project. I mentioned the upcoming Carnegie Hall concert. She immediately assured me of a strong support from our co-nurses. True to her word, she has already shown that support as a co-sponsor to this TAMBULI issue.

Josefina Toledo was born in Camiling, Tarlac. She is the fourth child in a family of five siblings. She lost her father at a young age. She was raised by her grandmother in Manila, among cousins, until her fourth grade. "I remember our hardships while I was with *Lola*", Josie said. "She had a store downstairs in her house. I sold *kakanin* and *bigas* to help her make both ends meet."

Josie went to school at the Padre Burgos Grade School, Santa Mesa, and in MAPA high school in Manila.

"I always dreamt of being a doctor", Josie said. She went to the University of the Philippines and took up social sciences for two years as preparatory studies for medical school. "But then, my brother, our youngest, wanted to be a doctor", Josie added. "The opportunity to continue in medicine was given to him instead. It was impossible financially for the two of us to be in medical school."

Nursing was the other option for Josie. She went to Luzon Colleges in Dagupan, Pangasinan, where she finished nursing. After her board exams, Josie worked in Olongapo, Zambales for six months.

"Having moved from province to province, I learned to speak the major Philippine languages - Pangasinan, Tagalog, Ilocano, and Kapampangan", Josie said with pride.

"In 1969, there was a shortage of nurses in Canada", said Josie. She applied and was accepted at the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. "I came to Canada with close friends. Two of us came first, then three others followed. I am an independent person, so I was not scared at all to be away from home".

The lure of the big city caught up with Josie. With three of her friends, she came to Montreal. First, she tried private nursing for three months. Then she accepted a job offer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The chance of working at the emergency room appealed to her. "I liked my work so much at the Queen Elizabeth. I worked there for eight years, from 1970 to 1977", said Josie. "It was a small, but good community hospital. But I had to stop working for a year because I had twins - my boys, Ryan Joseph and David Patrick", she said.

"I always opted for the difficult but exciting opportunities in nursing", Josie said further. From 1979 to the mid 80s, she worked at the Burn unit of the Montreal General Hospital. She could no longer continue there when the 12-hour shift was in effect. She accepted a nursing coordinator position at the Bayview Hospital and worked there until the 90s. "I worked nights when my sons were teenagers", she said, "I did not want them to grow up without guidance".

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