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Arts & Leisure

Special Announcement:

Calling all patrons of the arts, individuals and corporations: Alvin O. Salenga, a faculty member of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music who has a degree of Bachelor of Music in Classical Guitar Performing Arts, needs financial help. He was recently accepted in the Royal Welsch College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales to pursue his post graduate study of a Master of Music Degree in Classical Guitar Performing Arts in the Master of Arts Program. He is in need of financial sponsors for his tuition fees, et al.

He is being offered a scholarship of £500 per academic year. However, the tuition fee per academic year is £5,685. The charge for accommodation is £79.95 per week or approximately £4,000 per year. He would need approximately £9,500 per academic year and this is a two-year course.

His objective in taking this course is to enhance his performing craft and learn musical literature in classical guitar performance in order to promote understanding of Classical Performing Arts in the Philippines. He also intends to give classical guitar concerts, thus promoting the use of the guitar as a classical music instrument for performance.

On Sept. 10, 6 p.m., at the GSIS Museum of Arts, he will hold a special guitar recital. The public is invited to this free performance, and donations will be highly appreciated. Individuals and corporations that can afford to give any money to help this musician, please do so by attending this concert, contributing to the expenses of Mr. Salenga by calling him at his residence at 294-8175 or 0917-815-1624 or e-mail him atalvinsalenga@yahoo.com. For further information about the Royal Welsch College of Music and Drama, please visit Web site www.rwcmd.ac.uk/international. We should endeavor to help our upcoming musicians. Who knows? Mr. Salenga may turn be out to be as famous the great Segovia.

A Clarion call for music appreciation:

Sunday, 05 July 2009 at 01:04

By: Giselle P. Kasilag

Well into its 2nd year, the Clarion Chamber Ensemble comes together once again to offer an evening of chamber music. The 5th concert for the 2nd season will be held on Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the Equitable PCI Bank Building in Makati City.

Entitled *The Bold and the Sublime*, the performance is part of the MCO Foundation's ongoing Festival of the Arts. The repertoire includes: Francois Devienne's Quartet for Bassoon and Strings Opus 73; Joseph Kreutzer's Trio for flute, clarinet and guitar; and Johannes Brahms' Trio. Performing in the concert are Noel Singcueno (bassoon), Mary Grace Martinez (violin), Donald Kidd (viola), Arnold Josue (cello), **Alvin Salenga** (guitar), David Johnson (flute), Raymond Lazaro (clarinet), Hyun Joo Lee (piano), Nephtalie Villanueve (horn), and Reginald Pineda (violin).

"What I find most uplifting at this point is just to see all the players that are here today who have followed me and Hyun Joo in this journey to bring chamber music to an open forum and give it a home and, hopefully, an audience and some ears here in Metro Manila," said Clarion Chamber Ensemble's founder and artistic Director David Johnson during a press conference last week.

He explained that the idea behind the group is to broaden the experiences of the Manila audience with chamber music through intimate performances. Chamber music, Mr. Johnson stressed, is a unique expression as it allows both the players and the audience to interact with each other, explore the works to be performed in the deeper fashion, and it gives the musicians an opportunity to put together a performance that is truly of their choosing.

There is no conductor. Each performance consists of small groups of four to 10 players. Every musical piece makes use of a different combination of talents so that no two performances are ever alike since different musicians provide their personal interpretation of the piece.

What makes Clarion even more unique, however, is its ability to bridge the gap between the various musical groups of the country today. The players are members of the four largest professional orchestras in Manila and the three leading schools of music in the country. Many of those who perform for Clarion are the principal players of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Although there is professional rivalry amongst the orchestras, these difference are set aside the moment the musicians enter Clarion's universe. And what matters from then on is producing the best chamber music possible.

"I think it's a very Filipino group," said cellist Renato Lucas when asked about what sparked their interest and commitment to Clarion. "We have fun. We rehearse and sometimes one-third of the rehearsal is devoted to fun. And another one-third is

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devoted to another 'F' word -- food. That's very Filipino! And I think the most important one is another 'F' word -- friends. So all these 'F' words make up this Filipino-ness in the group. I think all these things are the important factors in making the group cohesive despite our differences."

Berea Guitar and String Ensembles

Sunday, 05 July 2009 at 01:05

Because of the desire to help make a difference in the world by sharing the gift of education, the membership of the Silliman University Faculty Association believes that they can be prime movers in ensuring a good future for the youth, and eventually the future of the nation. The association acknowledges its moral and social responsibility to the country, recognizing the important role of the youth in the country's future, and considering that poverty may hinder the making of future leaders.

Led by its officers, SUFA created a scholarship for poor but deserving students in 2006 and was able to raise initial funds from the donations of members who have committed themselves to help realize the project. At present, SUFA has one scholar enrolled in the College of Education . This deserving student underwent a stringent selection process by the SUFA Scholarship Committee.

Now renamed as the Ephraim N. Bejar Scholarship Fund after the SUFA president who was instrumental in signing the first collective bargaining agreement, the fund is expected to grow through the fund-raising efforts of the SUFA officers and members. Beginning this school year, SUFA will have an annual fund-raising activity to ensure the education of more deserving students who will become the country's future leaders.

Commencing this series of fund-raisers is the staging of the Berea Guitar Ensemble concert on February 27-28, 8 p.m. at the Claire Isabel McGill Luce Auditorium of Silliman University. Through this benefit concert, SUFA hopes to raise a minimum of P300,000 to be able to support at least one scholar in acquiring a four-year baccalaureate degree.

The Berea Guitar and String Ensembles may be considered as the ambassadors of goodwill of Berea Arts and Sciences High School , founded in 2005. Located in Vista Verde Executive Village , Antipolo, Rizal, the school has 88 students who specialize in either the arts or the sciences. While Berea implements the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education, enhancement is done in the arts and sciences, that is, all students take up music theory, guitar, keyboard, visual arts, extra mathematics, and other sciences. Arts majors choose from visual arts, music education, creative writing, or performing arts (musical instrument or voice). Science majors are taught advanced lessons in the sciences and mathematics. Graduation recitals, major exhibits, or theses are requirements for graduation. Musically inclined students join the Guitar Ensemble, String Ensemble, or the Voice Ensemble, thus, making these groups the official cultural representatives of Berea .

At present, the Berea Guitar Ensemble has 12 members. While most of them are science majors, they have decided to be in the group after taking the required basic guitar lessons. The Berea String Ensemble is currently composed of 3 violin players, 1 viola player, and 1 cello player.

Most of the members of the two groups are on scholarship. The guitar and string ensembles had their debut appearance in 2006 at the National Conference for Teacher Education held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City . Last July,

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the group performed at the International Conference on Teacher Education held at the Manila Hotel. They were also guests at Haribon Foundation's fund-raising concert at the Meralco Theater last September. Aside from Dumaguete, they would also be performing in Cebu this month, in Nueva Vizcaya in March 2009, and in Canada in April and May also this year.

Every school year, at least six major performances are held at the Berea Recital Hall where the ensembles play as front act performers. Some noted performers they have performed with are Michael Dadap, a guitarist based in New York; Joseph Mirandilla, a guitarist from Elizabeth University in Japan; Sal Malaki, a tenor based in Los Angeles and who recently staged a well-received concert in Dumaguete; Prof. Reynaldo Reyes, a pianist based in Baltimore and who has also performed in Dumaguete; Rudolf Golez, a pianist now teaching at Berea and who has similarly performed in Dumaguete; Nita Abrogar Quinto, a piano professor of the UP College of Music; Jourdann Petalver, a piano instructor of the UP College of Music and former music teacher at Berea; Aileen Espinosa Cura, soprano; and, the UP Dance Company. Furthermore, every December and March, the ensembles perform with other outstanding student musicians on campus to raise funds for scholarships.

The repertoire of the ensembles consists of music from the Renaissance period to modern times, such as compositions by Hoist, Vivaldi ("Four Seasons," "Guitar Concerto"), Bach ("Brandenburg Concertos," "Air"), Pachelbel, Mozart, Haydn, Jacob ("Flute" and "String Trio Suites"), Granados, Telemann, Guillian, Lauro, as well as Philippine folk songs as arranged by Obispo Roxas, and Palaruan.

The Guitar Ensemble is coached by **Alvin Salenga**, music faculty of the UST Conservatory of Music and a graduate of Elizabeth University, and Guike Panmel from the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, both of whom teach guitar at Berea. The String Ensemble is coached by David Johnson, a flutist, who is the artistic director of the Clarion Chamber Ensemble.

"With a strong union and a fair and just administration working in the spirit of cooperation and collegiality, the Silliman University faculty members are in good hands. This series of fund-raising activities and events will redound to benefiting all our stakeholders," expressed Dr. Victor Aguilan, incumbent SUFA president and chair of the Ephraim N. Bejar Memorial Scholarship Fund Campaign Committee and SUFA Productions.

Publication: Manila Bulletin

Date: Thursday, May 22 2003

YOU dont always need 100 Men and A Girl (a symphony orchestra) to hear music steeped in beauty like the night and starry skies, whether instrumental or vocal (remember the movie with pretty, teener American warbler, Deanna Durbin?).

Sweetly melodic for the most part, and filled with Old

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World charm, grace and refinement, was the musical fare served us recently by the Clarion Chamber Ensemble "Intimate Threesome," at the Francisco Santiago Hall, the "home of splendid music," by the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation and its knowledgeable heads President Antonio Samson and Executive Director Armando Baltazar.

Indeed, the program – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Viola in E-flat Major, K498" Kegelstatt – (Andante, Menuette – Trio, Rondo – Allegretto), Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka's "Trio Pathetique for Clarinet, Bassoon, and Piano in D Minor" (Allegro Moderato, Scherzo vivacissimo – Trio Meno Mosso, Largo – Maestoso risoluto, Allegro con spirito), and Luigi Boccherini's "Quintet for Guitar and Strings in D Major, G 488" (Allegro Maestoso, Pastorale, Grave Assai, and Fandango) – constituted a distinct contrast to the deafening din often characterizing contemporary music.

Well-balanced were the three instruments: piano (Mary Anne Espina), Clarinet (Ariel Sta. Ana), Viola (Donald Kidd). And Mozart was at his child-like harmonious best. The odds are, the green-with-envy villain, Antonio Salieri, had not yet burst upon the scene, to destroy its seraphic calm.

It was in Glinka's "Trio Pathetique for Clarinet, Bassoon and Piano in D Minor" that from gentle charm, the music started to become pulsating and passionate (specially in the piano's strings of passion) – with the bassoon lending the needed depth and ballast. Bassoon (Noel Singcuenco), Clarinet (Rey Lazaro) and Piano (Mary Anne Espina).

It was in Boccherini's "Quintet for Guitar and Strings in D Major, G 488" that lively dance was featured. Did it lack a bass guitar? Perhaps. Still it was an appealing piece, with these movements Allegro Maestoso, Pastorale. Grave Assai, Fandango for Violin (Reginald and Olga Pineda), Viola (Donald Kidd), Cello (Arnold Josue), Guitar (**Alvin Salenga**) and for added effects, the Tambourine/Percussion (Ariel Sta. Ana) and the Castanets (Rey Lazaro) – (all "rolls" – no "golpes?").

Too, to the music lover/steadfast truly fascinating was the wide variety of instruments put into use. Not to mention likewise both enlightening and refreshing. An event not to have been missed, in other words.

No wonder the audience called for an encore and Fandango was played once again with the tambourine and castanets adding to the generally happy mood.

The Composers – from Program notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as everyone knows, was God's "Divine Genius." Mozart's fame is based on two different frames of references: firstly, being the most famous child prodigy in music history (as both performer (piano) and composer); and secondly, his unquestioned brilliance as composer of classical symphonies, operas, chamber music, sonatas, church music, and concerti for various instruments.

98.7 DZFE *The Masters Touch*:

Archive for the '2009 September' Category

Alvin Salenga: Hello to Wales

Thursday, August 27th, 2009

10September, Thursday | 18:00

Alvin Salenga: Classical Guitar Recital

GSIS Museum of Art

As a fund-raising effort preparatory to postgraduate studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales, **Alvin Salenga** presents a classical guitar recital at the Lower Gallery of the GSIS Museum of Art, Macapagal Financial Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Alvin Salenga received his Bachelor of Music Degree at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music. He has participated in major guitar competitions in the Philippines such as NAMCYA Solo Guitar Competitions and the 1996 Guitar Concerto competition sponsored by the Embassy of Spain.

His program for the recital features music by **John Dowland, Domenico Scarlatti, Isaac Albeniz, Astor Piazzolla, Johann Kaspar Mertz, and Manuel Ponce.**

For more information, please Mr. Jonathan Coe at (0915) 622-5883.

SUNDRY STROKES by Rosalinda L. Orosa
The Philippine Star 12/07/2002

Christmas is synonymous with music – with carols, villancicos, nativity songs both in English and Tagalog which are being aired intermittently these days over radio and television.

Hotels, private homes and other venues contribute to the sounds of Christmas music, and if you were to assiduously attend every program and concert, you could be spending Christmas Eve in bed.

Tomorrow afternoon, Nena R. Villanueva will play a few major works upon invitation of Dr. Meding Suntay who is inaugurating her nth house in Makati. Nena, our first international concertist, recently arrived from Tokyo where she played Préludes by Chopin and Rachmaninoff at a dinner Ambassador and Mrs. Domingo Siazon hosted for Japanese royalty.

The Christmas cornucopia includes Awit, Pag-ibig, Papuri which will feature operatic singer Gamy Viray along with pop singers Dulce, Freddie Aguilar, Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and the UP Vocal Ensemble in praise-the-Lord songs composed by the prolific Mrs. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel. Chinggoy Alonso directs the show set for Dec. 11 at Camp Aguinaldo (8 p.m.)

Also on Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. the idealistic impresario Martin L. Lopez will present a FREE Christmas gift concert at the Philamlife auditorium with the audience listening to the UP Med Choir and the Hiraya All Men's Chorus. The concert, open to all, will benefit Ang Arko Foundation (for the mentally retarded), the Basilan children (in dire need of food, clothes, books), and the Divine Mercy Mobile Center of Music and Arts Therapy (for the disabled).

It is earnestly hoped that the audience will generously respond. Checks to any of the foundations will be gratefully received.

The Clarion Chamber Ensemble concert on Dec. 15 at F. Santiago Hall – it starts at 6 p.m. – will end with a sing-along of Christmas carols after Haydn's String Quartet, Brahms's Sonata for clarinet and piano rendered by co-founder-pianist Hyun Joo Lee and PPO principal clarinetist Ariel Sta. Ana, Schubert's Quartet in D Major with UST Professor-guitarist **Alvin Salenga**, founder-flutist David Johnson, principal cellist Renato Lucas and guest violinist Donald Kidd. The audience sing-along will be led by DZFE's Bert Robledo.

On Dec. 16 (Monday) 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Mandarin Oriental will present at the Captain's Bar tenor Nelson Caruncho and soprano Alegria Ferrer.

The following item came late: On Dec. 10, the young, highly talented pianist Jonathan Coo will give a concert at the UST Conservatory Recital Hall which will be highlighted by Grieg's Concerto in A Minor, with Najib Ismail on the second piano. Other numbers: Beethoven's Les Adieux Sonata, Chopin's Scherzo No. 2, Mendelssohn's Rondo capriccioso and Debussy's Reflections in the Water.

Spilling from the Christmas cornucopia is the gladsome tidings that the UST Singers under Fidel Calalang won the hearts of Fil-Americans and music lovers in Wisconsin's newlybuilt Sharon Lynde Wilson Performing Arts Hall. The choir sang with equal success at the St. John Catholic Cathedral in Milwaukee.
