

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR PACE-MI'S CONCERT *HIYAS NG PILIPINAS*

By Roselyn V. Ignacio
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ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – The Philippine Arts and Culture Ensemble of Michigan (PACE-MI) officers, members, and volunteers are earnestly preparing for this year's Philippine cultural presentation dubbed as *Hiyas ng Pilipinas* (Gems of the Philippines). This will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ (423 S 4th Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan) at 7 pm. This event will be a community affair that celebrates Philippine traditional dances, music, and songs featuring members of PACE-MI and local Filipino-American artists.

This year's program proudly presents PACE-MI's Kulintang, Rondalla, and Folk Dance ensembles. Indigenous music and dances from the Southern Philippines, such as *Binalig Amamayug*, *Tidtu*, *Pangalay*, and *Saggayan*, will be performed by the Kulintang ensemble. In *Hiyas ng Pilipinas*, the Rondalla and Folk Dance ensembles will join together to present traditional folk songs and dances highlighting the life of Filipinos in the country side. Songs and dances such as *Magtanim Ay Di Biro* and *Gaway-gaway* mimic the planting and harvesting lifestyle, whereas *Ang Dalagang Pilipina*, *Sayaw Sa Cuyo*, and *O Naranyag A Bulan* showcase a gentler romantic theme. *Pandang Sa Ilaw*, *Tinikling*, and *Karatong/Subli* will round the concert out with an air of celebration to remember.

Featured Filipino-American artists will include Dr. Christi-Anne Castro, associate professor of ethnomusicology and director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at the University of Michigan (UM). Roy Coloma, concert pianist and long-time piano teacher, will perform *Inday* and *Variations on Atin Cu Pung Singsing*. Elizabeth Ordinario Weil, lyric soprano and Kulintang program director, will conduct the Kulintang ensemble and will later sing *Sa Kabukiran*. Patricia Sorra Cabuena, cantor and choir member at St. Francis Church, will render a vocal solo of *Sa Libis Ng Nayon*, only after her young daughter, Sophia Cabuena, performs *Ang Pipit*. Philip Villanueva, Orthoptic Student at UM Kellogg Eye Center, will perform *Ang Dalagang Pilipina*.

Hiyas ng Pilipinas will be PACE-MI's third major concert since its founding in 2014. PACE-MI held its maiden concert entitled "*Ugnayan ng Ating Kultura*" (Linkages of our Culture) in 2015. Philippine Consul General Generoso D. G. Calonge, who came from Chicago to grace the evening event and deliver the concluding remarks said that the presentation was "one of the best I have seen." In 2016, PACE-MI hosted a fundraising dinner and concert simply dubbed as "*Barrio Fiesta sa PACE-MI Village*" which Rev. Jose Malayang described as "festive and fun, colorful and culturally educational. All the performers were as gifted as they were lovely."

PACE-MI is a tax-exempt/nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Ann Arbor whose mission is to provide programs and resources on Philippine arts and culture to the community. Its main focus is on learning and teaching Philippine arts and culture using string and gong instruments that accompany Philippine folk dances and songs. Active participants of PACE-MI have grown from 15 families to about 40 families and from four core instructors to 10. Its community engagements have also increased that include co-sponsorship of talks and workshops by visiting Philippine scholars, and partnerships with UM departments and other nonprofit organizations have widened.

For more information about this cultural event or PACE-MI, contact Joet Reoma (734) 972-8875 or email pacemi-admin@umich.edu.

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