



# SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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## SPU MANILA PRESENTS SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO NICANOR ABELARDO

The College of Music and the Performing Arts of St. Paul University Manila, in partnership with the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), presents PAGPUPUGAY, a tribute to Nicanor S. Abelardo, on his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on 17 February 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Fleur-de-lis Theater.



Nicanor S. Abelardo (1893-1934) is one of the "Triumvirate of Filipino Composers" whose contribution to Philippine music exceeds his prolific output of 140 works covering different genres of music. He was a man way ahead of his time, a pace-setter in the field of composition for his redefinition of the *kundiman*, bringing the genre to art-song status. He was an innovator who combined European romanticism with chromaticism in his *Cinderella Overture*, *Panoramas*, and *Violin Sonata*, paving the way for the legacy of modern composition in the Philippines. This Concert-Tribute aims to re-awaken awareness of the rich musical heritage Abelardo left in the hope that it will inspire young Filipino musicians.

Featured artists are the faculty and students of the SPU Manila Music Graduate School, headed by the Chairperson of the Doctor of Musical Arts program, Dr. Raul M. Sunico. With him are Mary Anne Espina, Nenen Espina, Ronan Ferrer, Jonathan Velasco, Eugene delos Santos, Thea Perez, Elisanta Cortes, Gina Medina-Perez, Dino Decena, and George Ong, with Renato Lucas, Secretary General of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA).

The repertoire includes rarely played Sonata in A Minor, which was last played in Chicago, USA, in 1932. The famous Abelardo *Kundimans* like "Mutya ng Pasig," "Nasaan Ka, Irog," and his other compositions will be heard again.

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Nicanor Abelardo was born in San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan to Valentin Abelardo and Placida Santa Ana. His mother belonged to a family of artists in Guagua, the Hensons. He was introduced to music when he was five years old when his father taught him the *sofeggio* and the *banduria*. Abelardo completed his first composition, a waltz entitled "Ang Unang Buko" dedicated to his grandmother, at the age of eight. By the age of thirteen, he was playing at saloons and cabarets in Manila, and by fifteen, he was teaching at barrio schools in San Ildefonso and San Miguel in Bulacan.

In 1916, Abelardo entered the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music, taking courses under Guy F. Harrison and Robert Scholfield. During his studies, he composed the melody of the university's official anthem, *U.P. Naming Mahal*. After earning a teacher's certificate in science and composition in 1921, he was appointed head of the composition department at the Conservatory in 1924. Years later, he ran a boarding school for young musicians, among which were Antonino Buenaventura, Alfredo Lozano, and Lucino Sacramento.



Abelardo died in 1934 at the age of 41, leaving behind a collection of roughly 140 compositions. He is known for redefining the kundiman, bringing the form to art-song status. Notable among his works are "Nasaan Ka Irog," "Magbalik Ka Hirang," and "Himutok."

The main theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the building housing the College of Music in UP Diliman (Abelardo Hall) were named in his honor and memory. (From Wikipedia)

## **SPU MANILA PARTICIPATES IN ADULT EDUCATION SEMINAR**

SPU Manila administrators attended the three-day seminar on Adult Education held in Royce Hotel, Clark, Pampanga on 4-6 February 2019. Dr. Amelia Butial, Director for the Career Development Academy (CDA), was granted a scholarship by CHED on Adult Education and had her training, together with 30 other participants, in Canada in 2018, and follow-up training sessions in Davao and Manila.

To show support for Dr. Butial and the AE program of CHED, Dr. Marichen Dychangco (VP for Academic Services), Dr. Mary Grace Leongson (Dean, CBM) and Ms. Josefina Antonio (Chairperson, Music Education) attended the program. Dr. Dychangco also signed an agreement to support AE on behalf of Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPU Manila President. SPU Manila will start offering AE programs in the Summer.



**SPU Manila administrators  
with other delegates...**



**Participants of the Adult Education Seminar**

## **SPU MANILA ACADEMIC VP SPEAKS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**



Dr. Marichen Dychangco, SPU Manila Vice President for Academic, Services, was one of the speakers in the Shandong Founding Conference and Academic Exchange Conference of the First Nursing Professional Committee of the Society of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine held in Jinan on 12 January 2019.

Dr. Dychangco spoke on the Status of Cancer in the Philippines.

The invitation was made possible through the academic partner of SPU Manila, the YIBU Education group.





## **SPU MANILA STUDENT IS ONE OF 2019 OUTSTANDING PAULINIANS**

St. Paul University Manila made it to the TOP 5 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Search for Outstanding Paulinian (SOP). Congratulations, Mhariane Bernieleth Cruz (BS Psychology).



**Mhariane with Sr. Evangeline...**



Congratulations, too, to the other Outstanding Paulinians from SPU Dumaguete (2), SPU Quezon City (1), and SPU Philippines (1).

## **ALUMNAE GATHERINGS**



**High School 1962  
Lunch get-together  
Café Juanita  
7 February 2019**

**High School 1965  
Lunch get-together  
Mary Grace Rockwell  
9 February 2019**

