

FMAACI @ 10

FELLOWSHIP DINNER | ENTERTAINMENT



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9

MAPLES COLLEGIATE
STUDENT COMMONS

1330 JEFFERSON AVE
6pm - 9pm

Programme



1  Years

BMO



As an extension of its commitment to fostering cultural enrichment and belonging, BMO Seasons is proud to support the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. on their 10th Anniversary celebration!

Visit us to learn more about how we can help.

BMO Seasons

751 Sterling Lyon Parkway, Winnipeg
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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

November 9, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI).



Since it was established in 2014, the FMAACI has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Filipino music and arts in Canada. This milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the history of the organization, to celebrate its many accomplishments, and to set goals for the future. You have also come together this evening to honour individuals and organizations who support FMAACI's mission. I would like to congratulate this year's Golden Tambuli Award recipients.

I would also like to commend everyone involved with the FMAACI for their commitment to sustaining a vibrant community and to promoting cross-cultural exchange. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AMBASSADE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DES PHILIPPINES
OTTAWA, CANADA



MESSAGE

On behalf of the Philippine Embassy in Canada, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI) on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary celebration and the Golden Tambuli Awards Night.

Over the past decade, FMAACI has demonstrated the vibrant spirit of the Filipino community in Winnipeg through creative endeavors, from spearheading the First Filipino Canadian Folk Music Festival in Winnipeg to fostering intergenerational connections through music and the arts.

The "Tambuli," as a symbol of harmonious and resonant call for unity, is a fitting tribute to the individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to enriching our community. I commend your initiatives to engage talents across generations, particularly through programs like the Ukulele Filipino Club and your ongoing efforts to involve seniors and youth in meaningful artistic expressions.

As you celebrate this milestone, which coincides with the 75th year of Philippines-Canada diplomatic relations, I wish FMAACI continued success in your mission of creating opportunities for Filipino artists and musicians. May you inspire even more people in the years to come, and may your endeavors further strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between Filipinos and Canadians.

I wish you all a successful and meaningful celebration. *Mabuhay!*

Maria Andrelita S. Austria

MARIA ANDRELITA S. AUSTRIA
Ambassador

9 November 2024, Ottawa



**PREMIER
OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA



A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I'm happy to provide a message of welcome to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada's 10th anniversary celebration and Golden "Tambuli" Awards.

Manitoba's strong Filipino community has contributed so much to our province. You are a valued part of our social, economic, political and cultural fabric. The talent of Filipino artists and musicians is essential to our arts and culture scene in Manitoba.

A special thank you goes out to the FMAACI for the "Music Upbeat for Seniors Inclusion and Community Connections" program here in Manitoba. Music is a powerful way to stay mentally active, connect with cultures and traditions, and remember our history, especially as we age. Thank you for providing seniors in Manitoba with these opportunities.

Congratulations to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada on a decade of preserving and promoting Filipino music and arts across Canada. I wish you all a wonderful evening of celebration.

***The Honourable Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba***



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I'm delighted to pass along our congratulations to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc.'s 10th anniversary celebration and to welcome everyone to the Golden "Tambuli" Awards Night.

I sincerely thank the FMAACI for their work in developing unique and creative approaches in the preservation, promotion, and blending of Filipino music and arts in our multicultural society.

Your efforts continue to ensure that Filipino artists and musicians have the mentorship and opportunity to contribute to the strength of Filipino cultural identity in Manitoba.

Manitobans come from a variety of backgrounds, speak different languages, have different culture, and follow distinct customs. When we can be proud of and share our culture, it helps create a future that is inclusive and welcoming of all.

In the past 10 years, FMAACI has accomplished so much, and I am excited to see what you will accomplish in the future. I wish you a wonderful evening and look forward to taking in the performances and sharing in the celebration.

Maraming salamat sa patuloy na pagtataguyod at paglinang sa ating musika at kultura dito sa ating kumunidad.

The Honourable Malaya Marcelino
Minister of Labour and Immigration



**MINISTER
OF SPORT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

A Message from the Minister

Welcome to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada's 10th anniversary event.

Since 2014, your organization has provided people of all ages with an opportunity to experience musical traditions of the Philippines. This year's anniversary provides us an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Filipino community's history in our province.

Music and the arts broadly are important pillars for sharing and exchanging cultural heritage while forming and strengthening relationships. A love of the arts can transcend linguistic barriers and unite generations and communities.

I would like to congratulate the many artists, volunteers and arts supporters who have contributed to the organization's success over the past decade. Your determination and passion to preserve vibrant musical traditions play a pivotal role in your continued success.

My best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and many more years of successful programs and events.



**Honourable Glen Simard
Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism**





Mayor's Message

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I'd like to welcome everyone to the Filipino Music and Arts Association 10th anniversary celebration. This event is a chance to recognize FMAACI and incredible contributions they make to our community.

This year, Winnipeg also celebrates an important milestone - 150 years as a city. This anniversary is an opportunity for us to reflect on our past, and look ahead to our future. And an important part of our city's story is the generous organizations and individuals who work hard to build a better Winnipeg.

To everyone involved in organizing today's event, I want to thank you for your dedication to promoting and preserving Filipino music and arts. Your commitment has had a lasting impact on individuals of all ages, and we look forward to seeing your continued positive contributions to our city's cultural fabric.

Thank you for all that you do to strengthen our city, and I wish the FMAACI continued success in the years ahead.

Enjoy the celebration!

Sincerely,

Scott Gillingham
Mayor
City of Winnipeg



Greetings from the Seven Oaks Education Foundation Inc.

My name is Irv Simmonds and I am the President of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation Inc. I am honoured to be bringing greetings on behalf of the Foundation and our congratulations to the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. on your 10th Anniversary Celebration and Golden Tambuli Awards Night.

The Seven Oaks Education Foundation Inc. (SOEF) is a charitable organization that is dedicated to raising money for scholarships and awards for graduates of the Seven Oaks School Division. Our vision is a supportive community where all students believe they can continue their education and training beyond high school. Our mission is to make post-secondary education accessible for as many students as possible by engaging the financial support of the Seven Oaks Community.

Any individual, organization, company or group may establish a scholarship through the Seven Oaks Education Foundation that will last in perpetuity with a \$7,000 charitable donation. The \$7,000 can be an immediate donation or maybe accumulated over time. This donation is then topped up by a \$3,000 contribution by the Foundation. The total \$10,000 fund is transferred to the Winnipeg Foundation who will then provide the Education Foundation with approximately \$500 for an annual scholarship. One time scholarships may also be made.

We were honoured to have partnered with FMAACI for the Iskolar Music & Arts Night on October 29, 2022, a fundraiser which established a perpetual scholarship - the FMAACI-SOEF Music and Arts Leadership Award.

The Seven Oaks Education Foundation looks forward to our future partnerships with FMAACI and we wish you continued success in everything that you do for the Community.

Irv Simmonds



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the unwavering support and love you have shown to our organization throughout the years.

Ten years ago, this seemed like an unattainable dream. Yet our accomplishments today exceed initial expectations. We are proudly celebrating FMAACI's 10th anniversary. Our collaborative efforts made this possible. I distinctly remember Levy Abad, my co-founder, and myself conceptualizing the idea. It all began with the simple concept of hosting a Filipino folk music festival.

Today, FMAACI has steadfastly promoted the preservation and advancement of our cultural heritage, utilizing music and artistic expressions. We have implemented resourceful approaches to address the unique needs of our diverse and multicultural community, including our older adults.

These are some of our humble shares to our community:

- Produced the First Filipino Canadian Folk

Music Festival with guest performers from Home Routes and Winnipeg Folk Fest and other ethnicities funded in part by the Arts, Culture, and Sport Community Fund.

- Raised \$10,000.00 to establish the FMAACI Music and Arts Leadership Award (Scholarship Program) with Seven Oaks Education Foundation Inc. that will live in perpetuity under the Winnipeg Foundation supervision.

- Produced Filipino Folk Music Festivals with Philippine Canadian Center of Manitoba, Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg, and Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre; First Filipino Folk Music Festival on November 15, 2014, at PCCM.

- Initiated "Music and Laughter are the Best Meds" by Elmer Aquino and guests with Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg.

- Organized "Rhythms for Peace and Reconciliation" with Junior Chamber International –Winnipeg Chapter (Jaycees) under the presidency of Julia Lim.

- Organized a Multicultural Music and Arts with Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba,

Filipino Friends of Immigrants, Newcomers Coffee Club, Booth University College.

- Spearheaded and partially funded Free Basic Songwriting Workshops (Immigrant Stories) with Seven Oaks Immigrant Services.
- Showcased Acoustic Guitar Night and Folk Night in local establishments and community senior centers.
- Conducted a “Sharing Circle” with Indigenous community and partnered with Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba, Bear Clan Patrol Northwest, and Winnipeg School Division.
- Founded the Ukulele Filipino Club with the Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg
- Started Ukulele Filipino Bilingual Club at Arthur E Wright Community School, Seven Oaks School Division
- Initiated Free Ukulele Workshops for Older Adults funded in part by Healthy Together Now (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority)
- Facilitated Basic Development Theatre Workshops – CREATE Program with the support of Aurora Therapy, Norwest Access Coop, and Newcomers Coffee Club.
- Collaborated with Bulacan Association of Winnipeg Inc. to hold the first Intergenerational Mini-Fashion Show with Nanay Clarita Nazario.

Ongoing is our “Music Upbeat for Seniors Inclusion and Community Connections”

(MUSICC) in Steinbach and Winnipeg funded in part by the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Activities include Guitar Lessons for Mental Health, Zumba Gold, and Intergenerational Open Stage (singing, playing an instrument, storytelling).

We have touched-based with numerous talented individuals of all ages and our FMAACI Board is now preparing to create additional opportunities and avenues for local artists, musicians, and community members, with a particular focus on our youth.

Through our Golden “Tambuli” Awards, we are pleased to recognize distinguished partners, youth musicians, local composers, and organizations whose notable accomplishments have strengthened community bonds through the power of music and arts.

Here’s to another decade of enhanced productivity, community engagement, creativity, and collaboration. MARAMING SALAMAT po at maligayang pagdiriwang ng ating ika- sampung anibersaryo. Mabuhay TEAM FMAACI! MABUHAY po tayong lahat!



Ernesto Ofiaza Jr.
Founding President

FMAACI HISTORY



Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI) and its beginning

Before 2014, Ernesto Ofiaza Jr., founding president of FMAACI, attended multicultural events organized under the office of former Minister Flor Marcelino, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, one of which was the Multicultural Food Fest. It was from these events that he attended as a volunteer that we became friends. We did some assessments at the Garden City Mall Food Court and also explored the possibility of organizing a Filipino organization to spearhead a Filipino Folk Music Festival, cognizant of the fact that the Filipino community loves music, poetry, and dance. During this time, I also worked as an Executive Assistant to Minister Marcelino. After learning that Ernesto worked as a legislative officer in the Philippines and was knowledgeable about community outreach, culture, and heritage, we wasted no time planning the first meeting of the group, which was held at Minister Marcelino's constituency office. From these meetings emerged the ad-hoc, and later on, the formal officers of FMAACI.

FMAACI Founding Officers (2014)

The following are the founding officers of FMAACI: Ernesto Nicolas Ofiaza (President), Jojo Yso (Vice President), Allan Pamplona (Treasurer), Mary Grace Layug (Secretary), Fernando Delayoan (Board of Director), Paul Morrow

(Board of Director), Daniel Tabo-oy (Board of Director), the late Bernadette Agpalza (Board of Director), Marilyn Martinez (Board of Director), Crisanto Bilibli (Board of Director). The same set of officers comprised the ad-hoc committee, except for Marlyn Martinez (Treasurer) and Al Santos (Business Manager) (Source: Pilipino Express). FMAACI was federally registered on August 28, 2014 as its anniversary date.

Breakfast Fundraiser & Afternoon of Music

The first-ever event of FMAACI was a breakfast fundraiser in support of the first annual Filipino Music and Arts Festival held in November 15, 2014 at the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba. Featured performers were: Neil Cruz, Mar Mance, Daniel Tabo-oy, Levy Abad, Cris Bilibli, Mel De Leon, and Marlyn Martinez. Sound system was mixed by Paul Morrow.

The breakfast fundraiser was followed by another event "An Afternoon of Music" at the Portage Place Mall on September 27, 2014, where the following artist shared their talent: Jun Llanos, Rowena Mendoza, Levy Abad, Jojo Yso, Grace Layug, and Al Santos. Two months later, the First Filipino Folk Music Festival came to fruition on November 15, 2014, at the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba (PCCM).

The First Filipino Folk Music Fest (2014)

The First Filipino Folk Fest showcased original Filipino songs that became famous through the years in the old country. Among them were the songs of "Asin" (Salt of the Earth), performed by the Traffic Jamm band; socially relevant songs like "Bahay" by Gary Granada, and original compositions that reflect on the story of migration of the Filipino community. This event sowed the seeds of love of the motherland and the diaspora through songs or cultural

presentations.

Historically, in the second half of the 70s, Dante Buenaventura started patriotic theater/music through the group "Magdaragat". What makes Dante's group different was how it culminated its plays with revolutionary tableaux that called for fundamental change in the old country, while other groups focused on entertainment to overcome the longing for the homeland. FMAACI is cognizant that these events reflect the cultural consciousness of circles of leadership in the community and believes that cultural education is important in sustaining the focus of remembering the motherland. Although FMAACI's focus is to gather the community and impart Filipino culture and heritage mainly through songs, it does not exclude other mediums or cultural forms, which it continues to explore.

The opening salvo of the First Filipino Folk Music Fest was the MAFTI Rondalla. This was followed by local artists like Jojo Yso, Daniel Tabo-oy Jr, Neil Cruz, Mar Mance, Elmer Sobretudo, Levy Abad, Zaldy Ordenez, Bernadette Barientos, Marlyn Martinez, and Arnold Tongol.

FMAACI and Multiculturalism (2019)

On April 20, 2019, FMAACI launched its multicultural project titled, "Rhythms for Peace: A Multicultural Concert for Healing and Reconciliation," featuring artists from different communities like Nandita Selvanathan of Bangladesh, Phoebe Man, Victor Bustamante from the Chilean community, Souka Lofoni from South Sudan, to mention a few. FMAACI leadership grasps the importance of integrating culture, identity, and multiculturalism. This event was held at the Maples Collegiate Student Commons (1330 Jefferson Ave.). Several local artists performed at this event: Jojo Yso, Rodol Olesco, Levy

Abad, Frank Urbano, Jon Rigor, Patrick Mayuga, Arnold Tongol, Donn Bermudo, Jaymar Trias, Emogen Ventura, James Cruzat, Jef Reyes, Alfie Mella and Julius Eugenio (Halflings), Christine Mazur, Gilbert Trillana, Triple D (Daniel Tabo-oy, Dario Javier, Darwin Rufino), DJ Feliciano and Ke Meng.

Second Filipino Folk Music Festival (2019)

It was on June 23, 2019, that the 2nd Filipino Folk Music Festival was launched, where a new set of officers took on the cudgels of organizing: Ernesto Ofiaza (President), Jojo Yso (Vice President), Jun Isla (Treasurer), the late Ernesto Pionela (Auditor), Paige Dimayuga (Secretary), Alma Ganaden (Board of Director), Jogin Tamayo (Board of Director), and Levy Abad (Board of Director). During this same year, FMAACI also launched two sessions of basic songwriting workshops, facilitated by Levy Abad, with about 20 participants producing original songs. There was also a painting exhibit by Jogin Tamayo. At this stage of FMAACI's evolution, aside from organizing performances, it started launching artistic workshops like basic songwriting, basic guitar lessons, and an art exhibit. The audience was treated to crankie theatre (visual story-telling) by Princes Eli and Robert John Aco. There was also a multigenerational fashion show by Clarita Nazario and Mhei Alcos. Other artists who performed were Manny Araullo, Christine Mazur, Gilbert Trillana, Levy Abad, Triple D (Daniel Tabo-oy Jr, Darwin Rufino, Dario Javier, Raffy Ramiro, Acoustic Live Winnipeg, Keesha Mae Mari, Yzza Reyes Lijauco, Rodel Olesco, Arnold Tongol, Jojo Yso, Frank Urbano, Jon Rigor Natoc, Ricky Natoc and Patrick Mayuga. It was hosted by Ponz Mapuyan.

Third Filipino Folk Music Festival (2020)

The 3rd Filipino Folk Music Festival happened on June 27, 2020. This period can be considered as the great

leap stage of the organization. Aside from the regular folk music fest, workshops, fundraisers, and other services launched by FMAACI. This was the start of joint projects with other organizations. Among them were the Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba (PHCM), and the Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg (FSGW). The set of leadership that took on the task was Ernesto Ofiaza (President), Jojo Yso (Vice President), Jun Isla (Treasurer), Ernest Pionela (Auditor), Paige Dimayuga (Secretary), Kris Ontong (Board of Director, Alma Ganaden (Board of Director), Jogin Tamayo (Board of Director), and Daniel Tabo-oy Jr (Board of Director).

One will notice some changes in the leadership of FMAACI through the years, which is understandable. As the organization continued to expand, the demand for time and effort from its volunteer leadership increased, which was hard for volunteers as they struggled to survive as migrants. We thank all the leaders who contributed to the growth process of this cultural activist organization.

On the occasion of the 122nd Philippine Independence Day (June 27, 2020), FMAACI pushed through with its nearly canceled event themed "Musika-Mustahan Para sa Kalayaan, Kalusugan at Kaligtasan" (Source: Filipino Journal Vol. 34 No. 12). This event was hosted by Aida Madridejo (Past President of the Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg), and Ernesto Nicolas Ofiaza (FMAACI President). Performances were rendered by Manny Araullo, Azel Navarro, Zaldy Ordonez, Cynthia Soriano, Christine Mazur, Daniel Tabo-oy Jr, Joyce Colada, Shirley Platon, Yzza Lijauco, Roni Rigor, and Rodel Olesco. On June 26, 2021, FMAACI and Barangay Canada launched an hour of Zoom Filipino Folk Music Fest to celebrate the 123rd Philippine Independence event with the theme: "Musikang Pilipino sa Panahon ng Pandemya" at 49 Euclid (Filipino Journal Vol 35, No. 13). This

event was graced by the Rainmakers (Joel Macanaya, Jojo Grospe, and Ramon Villanueva). Local talents who graced the event were the group ALIW (Jojo Yso, Arnold Tongol, Rodel Olesco, Patrick Mayuga, Manny Concepcion, Joseph David, Levy Abad, and Daniel Tabo-oy Jr.), Yzza Reyes Lijauco, Manny Araullo, Azel Navarro, Raffy Ramiro, Julius Cesa Eugenio, Joyce Colada, DJ Feiciano, Kyleen Neis, Catherine Ofiaza, Ernesto Ofiaza.

FMAACI's Folk Night-Pandemic Response

Amid the pandemic, FMAACI went through organizing a folk night on November 27, 2021, at the Filipino Seniors Hall (49 Euclid). Present at the event were the following local artists: Manny Araullo, Zaldy Ordonez, Levy Abad, Double D (Daniel Tabo-oy Jr and Dario Javier), Jun Isla, Vina Dimayuga, Al Santos, Larry Velasco, Jojo Yso, and Arman Reyes. It was at this event that President Ofiaza introduced the latest additions to the officers: Levy Abad (Vice President), Paige Dimayuga (Secretary), Jun Isla (Treasurer), and Ernie Pionela (Auditor). The Board members include Jojo Yso, Daniel Tabo-oy, Jet Tabuena, Kris Ontong, Jogin Tamayo, and Alma Ganaden. FMAACI's Youth ad-hoc members: Hazel Papelleras, Clare Shann Blanco, Maria Tined, Justine Baxa, Ramir Tabing, Nico Bryle Alfafara, and Angelica Placido.

FMAACI and Human Rights (2021)

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day on Dec 10, 2021, FMAACI successfully organized a human rights event at Pares Bistro. Cultural and human rights activists like Julius Cesar Eugenio, Alex Canlapan, Manny Araullo, and Levy Abad performed songs that reflect on the social issues affecting the Philippines and the diaspora.

Multicultural gathering for Peace and Healing

On June 25, 2022, FMAACI organized the Multicultural Gathering for Peace Healing, and Reconciliation at the

culmination of the Filipino Heritage Month at the Maples Collegiate Student Commons. Balangay ni Juan performed a thematic song "Matatag na Kultura, Matatag na Bansa." The members of this group are the following: Ernesto Nicolas Ofiaza, Julius Cesar Eugenio, David Marcus, Andy Empuesto, Jason Gallardo, Jeff Panganiban, Crisanto Aquino, and Gabby Empuesto. The multicultural component of this event would be the presence of Souka Lofoni, Nandita Selvanathan, Mariia Balieiva, Yarynka Chepiha, Christine Mazur, Alfred Ilagan, Jun Llanos, Mel Maralit, Lady Wood Acoustics from Gimli. Newcomers Coffee Club Dancers, Chinese Dancers and Movin Up Dancers.

FMAACI and Dance (2022)

As mentioned above FMAACI engages in different art disciplines, one of which is dance cum exercise or "dancersize." FMAACI held a ten-session dance workshop in 2022. This initiative was funded in part by the Seven Oaks' Healthy Living- Healthy Together Now (HTN) Program of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, with support of the Manitoba Health, Active Living, and Seniors. This event took place at 49 Euclid Avenue and was facilitated by Alma Ganaden, a representative of Dancing with the Stars-Canada, and Coordinator of the Moving Up Dancers (Source: Pilipino Express).

Ukulele Filipino Club (2022)

Ernesto Ofiaza, President of FMAACI and ukulele facilitator, sent me a digital poster of a free workshop for beginners slated for October 24 and 31, 2022, November 7, 14, 21, 2022 at PCCM. A series of workshop followed in November of same year at Jimel's Restaurant at Northgate Shopping Center. Said classes were funded in part by Healthy Together Now (HTN) program.

According to facilitator Jeanette Kiamco, after this series of workshops

on August 23, 2023, the ukulele group took shape starting with 20 members. The formation of the ukulele club is part of the initiative of FMAACI to develop the different disciplines of art that can help in consolidating the community in the field of culture and heritage. Later, an "after-school ukulele club, Filipino bilingual program - a partnership between FMAACI and Arthur E. Wright School (Seven Oaks School Division), FMAACI provided ukulele workshops for free, and students were taught Filipino songs in celebration of the Filipino Heritage Month 2024. These workshops were facilitated by Darwin Gimenez and Ernesto Ofiaza.

Sharing Circle and Solidarity (2023-2024)

Aside from integrating multiculturalism in FMAACI's program, the leadership also stressed solidarity with the Indigenous community by being part of the sharing circle with the PHCM and Bear Clan Patrol Northwest. In at least two events (June 21, 2023, and June 26, 2024), FMAACI shared stories and songs that acknowledge the Indigenous communities' struggles for self-determination and reconciliation. Matt Mousseau, Indigenous Way of Life Teacher and Helper of Scabee Shka-Bay Community, and Elder Sheryl Alexander and Tamara Rose, served as facilitators, respectively.

2023 Scholarship Fund

On October 29, 2022, Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF) received a total of \$7,014.29 in donations and proceeds from a fundraising event held at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Center themed "Iskolar: Music and Arts Night," where FMAACI played a major role in support of the SOEF effort to gather more scholarships and bursaries for graduating high school students each year. SOEF topped up the donations with \$2,985.71. A total of \$10,000 was deposited to the Winnipeg Foundation to establish the FMAACI-

SOEF Music and Arts Leadership Scholarship Fund that will be in perpetuity. (Pilipino Express March 16, 2023).

Performers to this event were: Jovelle Balani; Yarynka Chepiha; Mariia Balieiva; Levy Abad; The 12/21 Maceda Brothers Roman, Rico and Roque; Keri Latimer; Dody Feliciano Jr.; Daniel Tabo-oy Jr.; Crisanto Aquino; Gabby and Andy Empuwesto; Julius Cesar Eugenio, JC Luna, and Johnric Navarro of Humous; Soloistas Elmer Aquino, Thess Bubay and Reggie Canurnay; and Acoustic Live in Winnipeg (ALIW) players: Larry Velasco, Jojo Yso, Arnold Tongol, Rodel Olesco, and Patrick Mayuga. It was hosted by Love MJ.

Since its inception in 2014, FMAACI has been at the forefront of strengthening Filipino culture and heritage. When FMAACI launched the first-ever Filipino Folk Music Festival in Winnipeg, most of the artists came from the community's local talents. Famous songs from the Philippines were performed including socially critical ones. Original compositions that tell about migration and life in the diaspora and human rights were given the stage.

Later, FMAACI conducted a series of artistic workshops as part of its program. Fundraisers and scholarships were provided, multiculturalism was promoted, and seniors' inclusion through the "Music and Laughter are the Best Medicine" musical event by Elmer Aquino and the ongoing FMAACI's "Music Upbeat for Seniors Inclusion and Community Connections" (MUSICC) in Steinbach and Winnipeg funded in part by the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Activities include Guitar Lessons for Mental Health, Zumba Gold, and Intergenerational Open Stage (singing, playing an instrument, storytelling).

First Filipino Canadian Folk Music Festival (by Levy Abad)

After ten years of existence, the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI) successfully launched one of its programs, the Filipino Canadian Folk Music Festival at the FSG Winnipeg Event Hall, 49 Euclid Avenue, on February 3, 2024. The festival, supported by the Province of Manitoba's Arts, Culture and Sport in Community (ACSC) Fund showcased Filipino culture and heritage, multiculturalism, and the call for peace in a troubled world. Founded on August 2014, FMAACI is a federally registered non-profit organization based in Winnipeg whose aim is to explore and develop unique and creative approaches in the preservation, promotion, and blending of Filipino music and arts in the multicultural environment of Canada (FMAACI website).

FMAACI invited an array of artists who performed socially reflective songs. Among them were the group Double D, comprised of Daniel Tabo-oy Jr. and Dario Javier, who performed Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind," and Nandita Selvanathan, who rendered a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, projecting Indian poetry at its best. FMAACI friends, Cara Luft, a Juno Awardee singer-songwriter, and instrumentalist performed her original songs. So was Keri Latimer, another singer-songwriter, and guitarist, who is a regular performer at the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Keri was a member of a Juno awardee band "Nathan" in 2008. Jeanette Kiamco Perez rendered a song on Philippine history – the discovery of the Philippines by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, its subsequent colonization, and the Filipino resistance. Jojo Yso and Larry Velasco did covers and one socially critical song of Asin- "Balita." Retro Diva presented a fun dance number. Lastly, Levy Abad performed a couple of migrant songs, depicting the journey and struggles of our people. A raffle draw and ukulele jamming by the

Ukulele Filipino Club closed the night activity.

The event was graced by leaders in the community like Jelynn Dela Cruz-MLA for Radisson, Mintu Sandhu-MLA for Maples, David Pankratz-MLA for Waverly, Perla Javate- Chair of the Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba, Clarita Nazario- Past President of Bulacan Association of Winnipeg and faithful promoter of Filipiniana costumes, Jun Isla- the tireless President of the Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg, and other guests. One of its highlights is the presentation of a Bayanihan painting that depicts the Filipino spirit of unity and collaboration, to Mrs. Nazario, PHCM President Javate, and to MLA Dela Cruz and Pankratz on behalf of the Province of Manitoba, recognizing their leadership in culture, music, and arts. The artwork was drawn by FMAACI board member Jogin Tamayo, who is a painter himself. Approximately 200 attended the free event to enjoy and reflect on folk songs, as well as savour the great food served by Aida Champagne, a long-time leader of Filipino seniors and one of the founders of the Manitoba Filipino Street Festival. The night was hosted by Elmer Aquino and coordinated by Ernesto Ofiaza Jr. who also did a song rendition of the Treaty 1 land acknowledgment with his ukulele, and Denby Perez as stage manager.

FMAACI is composed of: Ernesto Nicolas Ofiaza Jr, President; Levy Abad, Vice President; Paige Dimayuga, Secretary; Jun Isla, Treasurer; Elmer Aquino, Auditor; and board members – Susan Dimayuga-Arcega, Daniel Tabo-oy Jr., Kris Ontong, Jogin Tamayo, Jet Tabuena, and Jeanette Kiamco Perez. FMAACI would like to thank the sponsors and partners. Without them, the event would not have been possible: Filipino Journal, Pampanga Restaurant, Kabalen Restaurant and Catering Services, Pilipino Express, Ethnorama News Winnipeg, Filipino Seniors Group

Winnipeg, Aroma Restaurant, Ukulele Filipino Club, Mrs. R. Bakery, Kangen Water MB, John Lopez Photography, Alex Canlapan Photography, Bobbit Nepomuceno for the sound mix, and Clarita Nazario, Allan and Maileen Pamplona for the raffle prizes.

Aside from its program, FMAACI collaborated with PHCM, PCCM, FSGW, SOEF, BIBAK, QPAM, Bear Clan Patrol Northwest, Newcomers Coffee Club, Filipino Friends of Immigrants in Manitoba, Booth University College, Seven Oaks Immigrant Services, Seven Oaks Filipino Employees Association, Bulacan Association of Winnipeg, Pilipino Express, Filipino Journal, Ethnorama News, CKJS, and Barangay Canada.

By 2023, FMAACI had a new set of officers to take on the task of its tenth anniversary and the future: Ernesto Ofiaza Jr. (President), Levy Abad (Vice President), Jun Isla (Treasurer), Paige Dimayuga (Secretary), Emer Aquino (Auditor), Daniel Tabo-oy Jr (Board of Director), Susan Dimayuga (Board of Director), Janet Kiamco (Board of Director / Acting Secretary), Denby Kiamco (Board of Director), and Jet Tabuena (Board of Director). FMAACI also has honorary members: Keri Latimer (Winnipeg Folk Festival artist and member of Home Routes), Christine Mazur and Nandita Selvanathan. (Levy Abad)



FMAACI First Organizational Meeting

OFFICERS



Ernesto Ofiaza Jr.
President



Levy Abad
Vice President



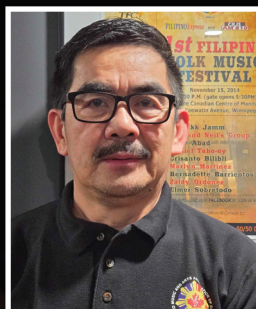
Paige Dimayuga
Secretary



Leonardo Isla
Treasurer



Elmer Aquino
Auditor



Daniel Tabo-oy Jr.
Board Member



Denby Perez
Board Member



Jet Tabuena
Board Member



Jeanette Perez
Board Member



Jogin Tamayo
Board Member



Susan Dimayuga
Board Member

FMAACI FOUNDING OFFICERS (2014)



Ernesto Ofiaza Jr.
President



Jojo Yso
Vice President



Grace Layug
Secretary



Allan Pamplona
Treasurer



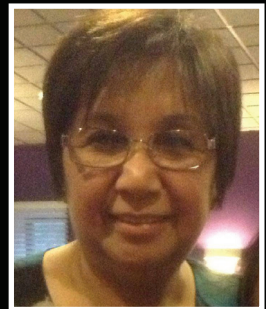
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Board Member



Paul Morrow
Board Member



Fernando Dalayoan
Board Member



Bernadette Agpalza
Board Member (+)



Cris Bilibli
Board Member



Marlyn Martinez
Board Member



Al Santos
Board Member

FORMER OFFICERS



Alma Ganaden
Board Member



Kris Ontong
Board Member



Ernie Pionela (+)
Auditor

HONORARY MEMBERS



Christine Mazur
Honorary Member



Keri Latimer
Honorary Member



Nandita Selvanathan
Honorary Member



FMAACI SOEF Music and Arts Leadership Scholar



FMAACI ANNOUNCES
NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEMBERS





FMAACI THROUGH THE YEARS





1st Filipino Folk Music Festival

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OUR COMMUNITY

History makers: First Filipino Folk Music Festival

By Julianne Jones

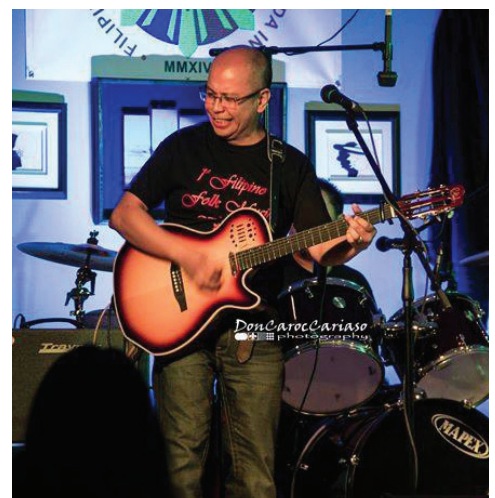
Through a loving and caring community, the first Filipino Folk Music Festival was held on Nov. 15, 2014. The event was a success, thanks to the hard work of the organizers and the support of the community.

Our Community

The festival was a success, thanks to the hard work of the organizers and the support of the community.

History makers: First Filipino Folk Music Festival

The festival was a success, thanks to the hard work of the organizers and the support of the community.





2nd Filipino Folk Music Festival

FILIPINO MUSIC AND ARTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, INC. in cooperation with MAGINOO, INC. PRESENT

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FOLK NIGHT
English and Filipino Songs
November 27, 2021
7pm - 9pm
Filipino Seniors Event Hall
(49 Euclid Avenue)

Featuring:
Al Santos
Arman Reyes
Double D
(Daniel Tabo-oy Jr. & Dario Javier)
Manny Araullo
Zaldy Ordonez
Levy Abad
Vina Dimayuga
Larry Velasco

FILIPINO JOURNAL
FILIPINO Express
ACTIVE

QR CODE will be CHECKED upon entry

Folk Night



ALEX CANLAPAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Meetings



Steinbach Project



Ukulele Filipino Club



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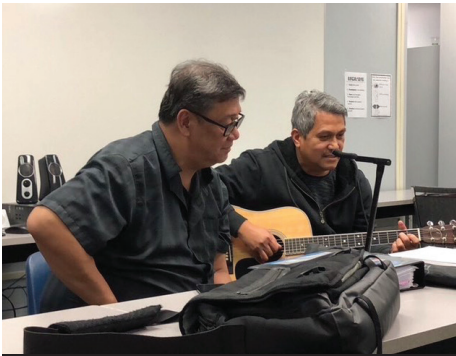
MARCH 22 2024 | **ENTRY \$20** | Food (Inclusive)
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FSG EVENT HALL
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20th Anniversary
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Various Community Activities





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*Congratulations FMAACI for a decade
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CONGRATULATIONS, FMAACI

FILIPINO MUSIC & ARTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, INC.



HAPPY

10th

ANNIVERSARY



Ann Evangelista
WSD School Trustee, Ward 9



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inyong lahat**
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Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of **Filipino Music & Arts Association of Canada Inc.**



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CONGRATULATIONS!

10th Year Anniversary
of the Filipino Music
and Arts Association
of Canada Inc.



MINTU SANDHU
MLA for The Maples
204-417-3486



MALAYA MARCELINO
MLA for Notre Dame
204-788-0800

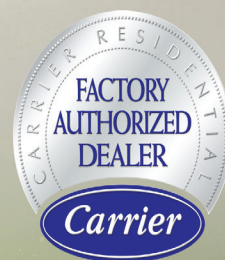


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years!



Happy 10 years!

FMAACI

Cindy Lamoureux
MLA for Tyndall Park



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GANI CASALLA and Family

Dessa Narciso and Family



10th Anniversary Program

November 9, 2024 | Maples Collegiate Student Commons

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 6:00 pm | <p>Dinner and Entertainment (Emcee: Elmer Aquino)</p> <p><i>Book Launch of Levy Abad's "Giving Back, Paying Forward (Filipino Labour Leaders of Winnipeg 1968-1998)"</i></p> <p><i>Greetings:</i></p> <p>MP Kevin Lamoureux, Winnipeg North</p> <p>Minister Malaya Marcelino, Minister of Labour and Immigration</p> <p>Councillor Vivian Santos, City of Winnipeg</p> |
| 7:30 pm | <p>O, Canada Zofia Lauren Yso</p> <p>Lupang Hinirang Zofia Lauren Yso and Elmer Aquino</p> <p>Land Acknowledgment Denby Perez</p> <p>Welcome and Greetings Ernesto Ofiaza Jr.</p> <p>Presentation of Leadership Medallions and Special Awards - FMAACI</p> |
| 8:00 pm | <p>Golden "Tambuli" Awards</p> <p>(Introducers: Susan Dimayuga, Jeanette Perez, and Paige Dimayuga)</p> <p>(Presenters: BMO Seasons and Vickar Auto Group)</p> <p>*Individuals</p> <p>*Youth Musicians</p> <p>*Songwriters</p> <p>*Organizations</p> <p>*Bayanihan Partnership Painting (Artwork by: Jogin Tamayo)</p> |
| 8:45-9:00 pm | <p>Photo Ops and Networking</p> |

Golden "Tambuli" Awardees



INDIVIDUAL: In recognition of their steadfast commitment and unwavering dedication to fostering community development through music and arts, thereby enriching and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines within the diverse Canadian landscape.

**CLARITA NAZARIO
AIDA CHAMPAGNE
PAUL KELVIN ONG
JOY LAZO
PERLA JAVATE**

YOUTH MUSICIANS: In recognition of their resolute commitment and dedication to leveraging music and arts in community development thereby perpetuating and advancing Filipino cultural heritage and traditions within Canada's diverse cultural mosaic.

**THE 12/21 (Maceda Brothers – Roman, Rico, and Roque)
D NEIS SIBLINGS (Isagani Kyle II S. Neis and Kyleen S. Neis)**

SONGWRITERS: In recognition of their resolute commitment and dedication to leveraging music and arts in community development thereby perpetuating and advancing Filipino cultural heritage and traditions within Canada's diverse cultural mosaic.

**LEVY ABAD
JULIUS CESAR EUGENIO
ALFIE VERA MELLA**

ORGANIZATIONS: In acknowledgment of their remarkable commitment and dedication to utilizing music and arts as a catalyst for community growth, thereby preserving and enhancing the Philippine's cultural legacy within the Canadian multicultural framework.

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FILIPINO SENIORS GROUP OF WINNIPEG
PHILIPPINE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF MANITOBA
PHILIPPINE CANADIAN CENTRE OF MANITOBA**

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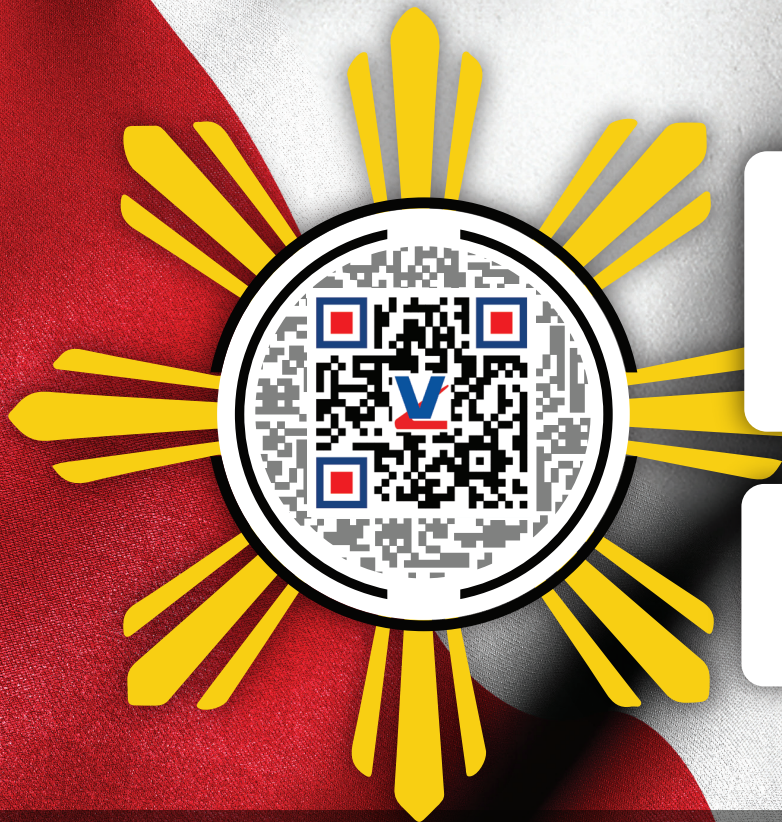
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