**24/25 SEASON** 

# **AWITAN**

## Melodies from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

7 PM | Saturday | June 28, 2025 Desautels Concert Hall, 150 Dafoe Rd. (University of Manitoba)





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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we proudly present our Season Finale Concert, Awitan: Melodies from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has journeyed with us throughout this unforgettable musical season.

Tonight is more than a performance—it is a celebration of heritage, unity, and the enduring spirit of community. Through the rich and diverse melodies from the three island regions of the Philippines, we honor our cultural roots and share the beauty of our homeland with the wider Canadian community, in celebration of Filipino Heritage Month.

To our loyal audience members, families, donors, and community partners—thank you for your unwavering support. To our dedicated singers, musicians, artistic team, and volunteers—your passion and commitment have been the heart of this production.

This concert would not be possible without the many hands and voices behind the scenes who believed in our mission: to uplift, connect, and inspire through music.

From the bottom of my heart, maraming salamat. May tonight's music stir your hearts, awaken memories, and leave you with renewed pride in the stories we carry as Filipino Canadians.

With love and gratitude,

Executive Director

Musica Singers of Manitoba Inc.





### MUSICA SINGERS O

Musica Singers of Manitoba is a registe mission to present outstanding perform Filipino Canadio

#### **Executive Committee**

Jesse Alcasabas, Executive Director Oscar Pantaleon Jr., Artistic Director Ma. Ashley Medina, Secretary

#### **Committee Directors**

Oscar Pantaleon Jr., Artistic Operations Ariel Fernando, Production Dante Aviso, Marketing & Community Relations Zabeth De Leon, Finance

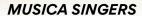
#### Awitan Volunteers

Bea Angeles, Joyce Angeles, Patrick Arnuco, Elesse De Leon, Jacob De Leon, Jhune De Leon, Samantha De Leon , Blyke Dimatulac, Kat Dimatulac, Daniel Figueroa, Tim Figueroa, Miles Hie, Aileen Ochoa, Glenn Unlayao, Andrew Aviso



### F MANITOBA INC.

red non-profit organization with the ances across Canada, showcasing ans of Manitoba



#### Sopranos

Jesse Alcasabas Ampy Arcos Milyn Armenio Catherine Tomo

#### **Tenors**

Jerome Ysrael Andaya Carlos Arcos Keitopher Chacon Ariel Fernando Oscar Pantaleon Jr. Lorenz Edward Sarrondo

#### **Altos**

Zabeth De Leon Jean Lopez Rowena Sta. Ana Jacqueline Unlayao

#### **Basses**

Jay Aguilar Dante Aviso Jim Lopez Luis Manguerra John Zedrick Reyes

#### **MUSICA KIDS**

Amiel Arcos, Sky Arcos, Ben Dimatulac, Zion Figueroa

Oscar Pantaleon Jr. & Lorenz Edward Sarrondo, conductors

Jim Lopez, MY Band music director Hector Pinzon-Arroyo & Crisanto Aquino, **collaborating artists** 

#### Singers On Leave

Ira Alejo, Elmer Aquino, Patrick Arnuco, Ren Bonifacio, Joan Ballester, Kat Dimatulac, Ricardo Manalang, Ma. Ashley Medina, Jaymar Tria, Stormy Zapata, Emmanuel Dimatulac







# AWITAN Melodies from Luzon,

#### I. AN ARCHIPELAGO OF MUSIC

#### SONGS OF THE CORDILLERAS

Salidumay / Yan agnas • Itneg folk songs • Oscar Pantaleon, arranger Chua-ay • Traditional Igorot planting song • Fabian Obispo, arranger with movements inspired by traditional dances

#### O NARANIAG A BULAN (Oh Bright Moon)

llocano folk song • Joy Nilo, arranger Lorenz Edward Sarrondo, tenor

#### ATIN CU PUNG SINGSING (I Once Had a Ring)

Capampangan folk song • Joy Nilo, arranger Jesse Alcasabas, Ampy Arcos, Milyn Armenio & Kate Tomo, sopranos Musica Kids • Amiel Arcos, Sky Arcos, Ben Dimatulac & Zion Figueroa

#### TULA TULA (Poems)

Based on traditional Tagalog children's teasing songs, Pen Pen de Sarapen & Jack en Poy Ramon Santos

#### **TINIKLING**

Traditional Visayan folk dance Magdaragat Philippines

#### SARONG BANGGI (One Evening)

Bicolano • Potenciano Gregorio • Joy Nilo, arranger Jay Aguilar, Dante Aviso, Jim Lopez, Luis Manguerra & John Reyes, basses

#### ILI ILI, TULOG ANAY (Little One, Sleep for a While)

Traditional llonggo lullaby Arranged with additional English text by Victor Johnson

#### SUA KU SUA (My Pomelo Tree)

Traditional Tausug courtship song and dance Choral adaptation by Oscar Pantaleon Accompaniment tracks by Jerome Ysrael Endaya

#### **ROSAS PANDAN**

Visayan • Attributed to Domingo Lopez George Hernandez, arranger



#### II. O.P.M. (Original Pilipino Music) THEN AND NOW

#### HIBANG SA AWIT (Dazed by Song)

Joey Javier Reyes & Ryan Cayabyab

#### MR. DJ

Rey Valera • Oscar Pantaleon & Joy Nilo, arrangers Zabeth De Leon, Jean Lopez, Rowena Sta. Ana & Jacqueline Unlayao, altos

#### MAPA (Map)

John Paulo Nase • Oscar Pantaleon & Christopher Borela, arrangers Carlos Arcos, Ariel Fernando, Keitopher Chacon & Jerome Endaya, tenors

#### PANTROPIKO (For the Tropics)

Mat Olavidez, Jumbo De Belen, Angelika Ortiz & Paula Patricia Chavez Oscar Pantaleon & Christopher Borela, arrangers

#### III. STILL THE HEART SINGS

#### ANAK (Child)

Freddie Aguilar Adapted from the choral arrangement of John Pamintuan

#### GAANO KO IKAW KAMAHAL (How Much I Love You)

Levi Celerio & Ernani Cuenco Oscar Pantaleon Jr., choral arranger

#### KUNG NAGSASAYAW KITA (When We Are Dancing)

Levi Celerio & Antonio Maiquez Oscar Pantaleon Jr., choral arranger

#### HANDOG (Offering)

Florante De Leon Ed Nepomuceno, arranger

#### KAY GANDA NG ATING MUSIKA (How Begutiful Our Music Is)

Ryan Cayabyab



### **SINGERS AND ARTISTS**

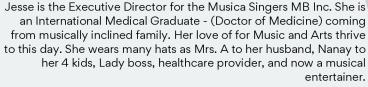
MUSICA SINGERS OF MANITOBA is a non-profit organization and leading community-based vocal ensemble with a vision to promote and preserve Philippine art and culture in Canada. Our mission is to present outstanding performances that showcase Filipino Canadians in Manitoba. As volunteers, we share the same passion for music and strive to work hard to achieve this goal.



#### **JAY AGUILAR, BASS**

Jay is a newcomer to Canada, landing on April 10, 2024. He sang Bass at SABM Chorale at Saint Louis University, Baguio City in his college years. Jay also sang Bass at Coro D'llera (formerly known as Maryknoll Sanctuary Choir) in Baguio City. At present, he is a member of Saint Edward's Tagalog Mass Choir in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

#### **JESSE ALCASABAS, SOPRANO**







#### IRA ALEJO, ALTO

Iraisan internationally educated Architect from the Philippines, graduated from the University of Santo Tomas. She's currently working for a multinational engineering and design firm. She started to be in a choir in their Parish in the Philippines. Currently, she's an active member of two St. Peter's Parish Winnipeg choirs: the 5pm Mass Choir and the Petrus Chorus.

#### **MILYN ARMENIO, SOPRANO**

Milyn has loved singingsince childhood, joining a church choir in high school. Her passion for music grew and she decided to take part in Musica in Oct 2023. She's part of The Worship Ministry for the Winnipeg Church of Christ and works at Costco. Besides singing, she likes to dance as well as spend time with her husband Eduard and son.

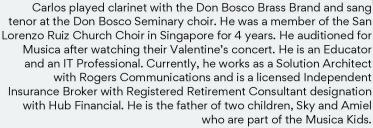




#### **AMPY ARCOS, SOPRANO**

Ampy was a bass player and vocalist in a band, a choir member, and a theatre actress from elementary until high School. She received a cultural scholarship as President of the Lyceum Institute of Technology Chorale. While working in Singapore, she was a member of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish choir. Ampy is an Engineer working towards licensure in Manitoba while working as a Project Coordinator at Lakeside Process Controls. Outside of work and school, she is a wife to Carlos and a mother to Sky and Amiel.

#### **CARLOS ARCOS, TENOR**







#### **DANTE AVISO, BASS**

Dante is currently a School Trustee for the Winnipeg School Division. He is passionate in promoting Philippine Arts and Culture in the community, organizing fundraising events and mentoring youth and students in the pursuit of their interests. He is the Founder and currently Marketing and Community Relations Director of Musica Singers of Manitoba, Commissionaire for Oaths in the Province of Manitoba and a licensed realtor for Century 21 Bachman & Associates.

#### **ELMER AQUINO, TENOR \*\*\***

Elmer is a Civil Engineer who worked in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for 30 years. In Canada, he has taken a second career as an Accountant. Elmer is a well-known figure in the Filipino community. He hosts events, is a sought after singer, actor, and Voice and Stage Performance Coach/Trainer. He is also an Instructor of Personality Development, Team Building, and Emceeing/Hosting. Elmer does voice impressions of famous singers and brings joy to the elderly residents every time he performs at long-term care facilities.





#### MAGDARAGAT PHILIPPINES INC.

Magdaragat Philippines Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Philippine culture, primarily through dance. The group uses traditional Filipino folk dance, ballet, jazz, martial arts, hip hop, creative movement, poetry, theatre and music to express aspects of Philippine culture. The performers come together to create a brilliantly colourful experience for the audience.

Created in 1976 by Dante C. Buenaventura, Magdaragat Philippines preserves and promotes Philippine culture throughout Winnipeg and Manitoba.

The word Magdaragat is a Filipino word that means voyagers of the seas or seafarers. It was chosen to reflect the geographic character of the Philippines as a country of more than 7000 islands, its rich culture, and the nature of the Filipinos who immigrated to Canada.

The group has been involved with Folklorama for many years and enjoys returning every year to perform and celebrate Philippine culture.

On the international front, the group has represented Folklorama and Canada at festivals in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica and Chile.

#### **ARTISTS**

Nico TamayoTayea BeaudoinJesilia Dela CruzCerio AbrenicaCiana BeaudoinYasmin ReyesSean CantosAliyah MacaraigVina Dimayuga

Bella Pelagio Danica Huber

#### **CORE PRODUCTION**

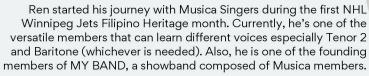
Goldie Garcia, Nicole Tamayo & Caroline Beaudoin



#### **PATRICK ARNUCO, TENOR \***

Patrick Arnuco is our youngest member of Musica Singers of Manitoba. He was born and raisedin Winnipeg, Canada. He takes pride in singing Filipino music, including Original Pilipino Music (OPM), R&B, and Kundiman, sharing his talents with eloquence and passion. Patrick is an active member of Wind Ensemble, Maple Sugar, Chamber Choir, Senior Choir, Symphonic Band, and takes part in Maples Collegiate's theatrical programs.

#### **RENIEL BONIFACIO, TENOR**







#### **JOAN BALLESTER, SOPRANO \***

Joan's passion for music drives her active participation in the choir's performances. In her universityyears, she was part of the PHILSCA Chorale, where she honed her love for choral music. She also designed the choir's website, further contributing to its growth and online presence.

#### YMMA NUELLE CONCEPCION, SOPRANO \*\*\*

Ymmajoined Musica in 2019. At an early age, she started singing in amateur singingcontests in the Philippines. Her love of musicis evident by her involvement in numerous community events and concerts in the city. She is a recent graduate of Payroll Administration and currently works in an office environment. Ymma is thrilled to join Musica in concert for another season.





#### **KEITOPHER CHACON, TENOR \***

With 23 years of culinary expertise in 5-star hotels and casinos across the Philippines and Singapore, Keitopher's passion for creating unforgettable gastronomical experiences is unparalleled. Mentored by celebrity Chef William Anthony King in the Philippines, he honed his craft before migrating to Canada in 2010. But what's less known is his lifelong love affair with music, ignited at a young age. Now, he's pursuing his dream of being a student in the art of choral singing. As a devoted husband, father of three, and social media creator, Keitopher embodies the spirit of creativity, perseverance, and community. Follow his journey as he harmonizes flavors and melodies!





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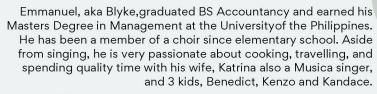
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#### **ELIZABETH DE LEON, ALTO**

Zabeth is Musica's Finance Director and Treasurer of Caring for our Environment Manitoba(CEM). She is also a member of 12:30pm choir of St. Peter's Parish, a licensed life insurance agent and proud mother of 3 great children Jacob, Elesse and Sam.









#### **VINA DIMAYUGA, SOPRANO \*\*\***

Vina Dimayuga is a voice major at the Canadian Mennonite University, working towards a Bachelor of Music Therapy Degree. She has taken voice lessons since the age of six, learning a variety of genres. Vina is active within Winnipeg's Filipino music community and has participated in international music competitions and festivals in Vancouver, Hollywood, and Chile. As Vina completes her degree, she continues to share and use music to help heal and inspire others, while creating a more inclusive space for IBPOC musicians within the field.

#### ARIEL FERNANDO, TENOR

Ariel is a passionate teacher and the productiondirector of Musica Singers. With over twenty years of teaching experience anddeep musical involvement, he blends educational expertise with artistic talent. He was a music researcher for ABS-CBN's TV Production and represented Manitoba at the Karaoke World Championship - National Finals in 2017. He is currently teaching in River East Transcona School Division.







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#### **KATRINA IBE-DIMATULAC, SOPRANO \*\*\***

Katrina is a coloratura soprano who gained most of her training from her church choir at the Cathedral of San Fernando. Ona professional note, Katrina is in the Finance field, and is currently earning work experience towards her CPA designation. She is also the Treasurer of the University of the Philippines Alumni and Associates in Manitoba (UPAA-MB). She loves spending time and singing with her husband, Emmanuel, and three kids.





#### **JEAN LOPEZ, ALTO**

Jeanis a wife and mother of three. She can be seen performing at various events and is a dedicated member of the church. She considers her husband to be her greatest influence in music. She is an active member of the Musica Singers of Manitoba.

#### JIM LOPEZ, BASS

Jim Lopez was invited to join Musica throughfriends. As a part of Musica, Jim hopes help preserve and promote Filipino culture, values, and heritage through music. He is a machinist by trade. Jim is the accompanist for One Voice Chorale that serves at The Immaculate Conception Parish and is also a member of local Winnipeg band: On The Que.





#### MA. ASHLEY MEDINA-BONIFACIO, ALTO

Ashley joined Musica Singers as Executive Secretary to support her husband, Ren. As a passionionate photographer, she took photos and videos during rehearsals and events for Musica's marketing and social media. In August 2023, with her church choir experience and the encouragement of the team, she now sings Alto as a member of Musica. Ashley finished her Canadian schooling in Tourism and Travel Operations at Seneca College, Toronto.

#### **LUIS MIGUEL MANGUERRA, BASS \***

Luis graduated high school in 2024. Luis is drivenby his interest in arts and music, and is heavily involved in programs that enrich his craft. He joined Musica Singers by chance while looking for ways to pursue his love for music. He is hoping to continue building himself as a singer.









#### Get Involved!

Musica Singers of Manitoba relies on the generosity and dedication of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. We are always in need of individuals who are eager to contribute their time and talents. Whether it's helping at our concerts or organizing fundraising events, there are many ways you can get involved. If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to hear from you! For more information on how you can volunteer, please contact

info@musicasingersmb.ca



#### RICARDO MANALANG, BASS

Ricardo (Bong) Manalang first performed with Musica Singers at the Winnipeg Jets' first FilipinoHeritage Night in 2022. Bong sang lead in TJ & Company, a Standards and Jazz Band in Winnipeg. A music career highlight was being invited to perform at Victoria General Hospital's 100th Anniversary. His Operating Room co-workers were caught by surprise when they saw him singing on stage. Bong has performed at various events and festivals in Winnipeg. He thanks his family and friends for their continued support.





#### **OSCAR PANTALEON JR., MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Oscar chairs UPAA-MB and writes for Pilipino Express. He studied engineering and music at the University of the Philippines, toured extensively with the Philippine Madrigal Singers, managed the Philippine Choral Directors Association, and ran special projects for Ryan Cayabyab. Oscar finished arts & cultural management at UW and was with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for 7 seasons. He now works in the international development sector.

#### **JOHN ZEDRICK REYES, BASS**

As a newcomer to Canada, Zedrick is thrilled to be a part of Musica. His love of music began when he joined the Ramon Magsaysay High School Chorale, Manila. In 2010 he won Best Male Choir Member of the Year. John is part of the Praise & Worship team at his local church and wants to use his God-given talent and passion for music to lead people to God through worship.





#### LORENZ EDWARD SARRONDO, TENOR

Lorenz's musical career began with acclaimed University of the Philippines Manila Chorale in 2010, winning accolades in prestigious choral competitions, both locally and internationally. Before moving to Winnipeg in 2022, he joined Miss Saigon (Guam), serving as vocal coach to the ensemble. He earned his Associate in Arts (Music Major in Voice) from UP Diliman and is completing his Bachelor of Music (Major in Voice) at the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music under renowned soprano, Tracy Dahl.



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#### **ROWENA STA. ANA, ALTO**

Rowena joined Musica in 2022. She has a Bachelor of Education, and studied Master of Educational Management. She is a wife, and mom to her unica hija. Singing led her to join a few parochial, corporate, and university choirs in Pampanga, Greenbelt Makati, Globe telecom, and St. Gianna. She affirms that singing equates to praying twice and is a potent healer of the heart.





#### STORME ZAPATA, SOPRANO

Storme is new to Musica, committed andwilling to learn! She plays a bit of piano and guitar and likes to draw in her free time.

#### **CATHERINE TOMO, SOPRANO**

Catherine (Kate) graduated with degrees in Nursing and Broadcast Communication. She started singing as a child, performing in front of her family and relatives. Her mom, who was always proud of her, nurtured her talent for singing. With her encouragement, Kate joined a singing contest and won first prize at the age of eight. This achievement boosted her confidence and kindled her lifelong passion for singing. In college, Kate actively participated in various chorale groups. She is very happy that she is part of the Musica Singers, the chorale group she had been looking for after she moved to Canada.





#### **JACQUELINE UNLAYAO, ALTO \***

Jacque joined Musica in August of 2024. She is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering in the Philippines. Her love of music flourished after joining Singles for Christ music ministry in 2003. Now even as a wife and mom of 3, she continues to pursue her passion of singing as a personal prayer and service to glorify God.

#### **HANNAH CACHERO, FLUTE & PIANO**

Hannah is a first year student at Université de SaintBoniface, taking up Psychology in Bachelor ofScience. Born and raisedin Winnipeg, she grew up sharing her gift of musicality with her communities at school and at church. Alongside playing flute, guitar and bass, she is the pianist and organist at Broadway Disciples United Church.







MelodiesfromLuzon, Visayas & Mindanao





Photos by: Ruby Manalang





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- Enjoy free voice workshops and artistic development opportunities

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# FILIPINO JOURNAL

#### ANICA WARKENTINE, PIANO

Anica is a pianist from Winnipeg, who enjoys making music with others. As a soloist, she has appeared with the WSO, U of M Symphony Orchestra and U of M Wind Ensemble. As a chamber musician, she has appeared with Virtuosi concerts and in the ReSound series. Anica is a passionate piano teacher and has served as an adjudicator for the Winnipeg Music Festival. She holds a Post-Baccalaureate in Collaborative Piano and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of MB.





#### **LORENZO CAMUS, VIOLIN & PIANO**

Lorenzo Camusisa Grade 8 student at École Leila North where he plays the euphonium and the trombone for the cantina and the jazz bands, respectively. He started violin lessons when he was four and piano lessons when he was ten. He has played violin as a member of the Winnipeg Youth Orchestras since 2019. His first solo piano recital will be happening this month. His teachers are Jeffrey Solares for violin and Gretchen Arnaldo for piano, who are both based in the Philippines.

#### **PAOLO CAMUS, VIOLIN**

Paolo is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree inMusic Performance at the Desautels Faculty of Music of the University of Manitoba. In 2023, he won the Music Faculty's Concerto Competition with his performance of the first movement of Tchaikowsky's Violin Concerto in D Major. The following year, he played the whole concerto as a soloist with the University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra. Prior to this, he had been a finalist at local and international competitions. He has been playing the violin for close to 17 years and regularly plays as a volunteer for Sunday and special masses. He has also been playing a variety of musical genres for weddings and local events since 2017. As of this writing, he is scheduled to substitute for the first time as a violist at the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's From the Inside Out



#### **JAYMAR TRIA, BASS & GUITAR**

The world of music has played a large part in Jaymar's life since he learned to play the guitar and piano at the age of ten. He has been a keyboardist of the Quarter2 Band since 2016 and has played with them in a lot of events, birthdays, parties, and socials. The band has also performed as Front Acts in concerts. He is currently a choir leader of the St. Peter's Parish Tagalog Mass Choir and the Petrus Chorus, the Grand Choir of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Winnipeg. His love for music has been one of his stress relievers in life.

#### HÉCTOR J. PINZÓN-ARROYO, PIANO

Héctor, a Colombian pianist, conductor, and composer, began his musical journey at age 5 in a family of musicians. With master's degrees from top institutions, he excels in instrumental, operatic, symphonic, and choral repertoire. He has led orchestras, won competitions, and toured internationally. Now a pianist and coach at the Desautels Faculty of Music, he continues to blend classical and Latin folk traditions.





#### **SHAWN PORTEOUS, GUITAR**

Shawn has been working asamusic educator and performer for over 20 years across both the public and private sectors. In addition, Shawn holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Manitoba, and currently serves as an Inclusion Specialist, supporting newcomer and multilingual students across the K-12 system. Shawn has been performing with Musica and the Musically Yours Band since the summer of 2023.







#### St. Ann Church

St. Ann Church is a church of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg



#### Contact

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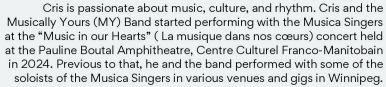
# **PILIPINO**Express



#### **JEROME YSRAEL ENDAYA, TENOR & GUITAR**

Jerome is a new comer to Canada. He is passionate about music and guitar. He loves exploring different styles and is dedicated to mastering the instrument, focusing on improvisation, rhythm, and fretboard fluency.

#### **CRISANTO AQUINO, DRUMS & PERCUSSION**









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#### Help us keep the music alive!

Want to be part of something incredible? By supporting the Musica Singers, you're not just donating—you're helping us hit all the high notes (literally!). Your contribution keeps the music flowing, helps us reach new audiences, and brings more joy to our community.

Every dollar helps us create magical performances and support the next generation of singers. So why wait? Join our chorus of supporters today and make some noise with us! Thank you for your generosity and support. Together, we can make a lasting impact!





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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



A venefit concert for St. Ann Church





7 pm, Friday, July 25 St. Ann Church, 271 Hampton St.





armonious Resonance: Voices of the World

Musica Singers with Manitoba Chinese Choir &
Manitoba Ukrainian Choir "Oberih"
7 pm, Saturday, August 16
Desautels Concert Hall, University of Manitoba, 150 Dafoe Rd.





Manitoba Filipino Street Festival Wika, Musika, Sari-saring Panghimagas

> 2 pm, Sunday, August 17 Maples Community Centre, 434 Adsum Dr.



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