

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd honors young musicians

Young Filipino artists once again exhibit musical talents that attest why Filipino artists are considered among the world's greatest.

During the opening ceremonies of the 2010 National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) on November 23 at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), various student finalists showcased their extraordinary talents in music. The event carries the theme, "Musika at Sining: Diwa ng Sangkatauhan" (Music and the Arts: the Soul of Humanity)."

"The conduct of activities such as this never fails to promote Filipino music. This undertaking is a perfect venue for young musicians to showcase their exceptional talents. It also increases our appreciation of the arts and in turn boosts our pride in our culture," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

Luistro also thanked partners in this event. "We are deeply honored in working closely with NCCA, CCP and NAMCYA Foundations for holding an event that highlights Filipino artistry in music."

Director for Communications Anna Cristina Ganzon graced the event to represent the Department of Education.

"Music is one of the ties that bind the many islands of the Philippine archipelago. It also does what the timid heart cannot verbalize. To Filipinos, music is an expression of the soul and it mirrors the core of our being as an individual and as Filipinos," Ganzon mentioned in her speech.

Through DepEd Memorandum No. 169, series of 2010, DepEd announces the conduct of this year's NAMCYA, in collaboration with NAMCYA Foundation, Inc., National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and CCP on November 23-28, 2010. The activity is based on Presidential Proclamation No. 25, series of 1998 which designates the last week of November each year as the National Music Week, during which the NAMCYA competitions comprise the main focus of the celebration.

Ganzon told the participants to continue unfolding their full potentials and, "to give your all. Don't hold back. Express yourself and leave your mark."

The competitions are in three phases. Phase I engages the contestants to Regional (Video Screening) Competitions; Phase II, Regional Center Competitions; and Phase III, National Final Competitions and Traditional Music Concerts.

This year's NAMCYA and National Final Competitions in different categories will last until Saturday, November 28. Categories include banduria (November 24), ballet (November 25), marimba (November 25), children's choir (November 26), and piano (November 26).

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Activities such as outreach programs from European International School (November 25), Berea High School for Sciences and the Arts (November 25), and University of the Philippines College of Music, Diliman (November 26) will also be part of this year's celebration.

The Concert of Winners: Traditional Music Ensemble will be on Saturday and performance of winners and awarding ceremonies will be on Sunday.

"DepEd commends young music artists who preserve and promote our rich culture and talents through their participation in this event," noted Luistro.

Also present during the opening ceremonies were NAMCYA Chairperson Veronica Merk, NCCA Executive Director Maria Lourdes Jacob, NCCA Chairperson Vilma Labrador, and NAMCYA Program Director Luz Corazon Roque, who also represented 2010 NAMCYA Secretary-General Ramon Maria Acoymo.

Past winners also performed during the event. Andres Bonifacio Elementary School Alumni Rondalla (1st prize, 2009 NAMCYA Rondalla Competition) sang the Philippine National Anthem. Franco Maigne (1st prize, 2009 NAMCYA Guitar Competition), Dawna Reign Mangahas with Nazer Salgado (2nd prize, 2009 NAMCYA Ballet Competition), Kimberly Anne Mendoza (Special Awardee for Best Choreography and finalist, 2009 NAMCYA Ballet Competition), and Lorenzo Medel (1st prize, 2009 NAMCYA Piano Competition) rendered their special talents.

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