



university of the philippines madrigal singers

For more than fifty years, the University of the Philippine Madrigal Singers has earned accolades all over the world. It has consistently won top prizes in most of the world's prestigious choral competitions, including the Grand Prix in the 64th Concorso Internazionale di Guido d'Arezzo last August 2016 in Arezzo, Italy. They hold the distinction of being the first choir in the world to win the formidable European Grand Prix for Choral Singing twice (1997 and 2007). National Artist for Music Professor Andrea O. Veneracion, who founded the group in 1963, introduced world-class Filipino choral artistry to the world as the University of the Philippine Madrigal Singers triumphed in festivals and concerts all over the world.

The Madz, as they are fondly called, is also the country's most active ambassadors of goodwill. They have sung for many of the world's most influential and prominent leaders in state visits and command performances. Among them were Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, Pope Francis, United States Presidents Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon, and Barack Obama, French President François Hollande, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia of Spain, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Vietnam President Tôn Đức Thắng, Princess Margaret of the United Kingdom, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim of Brunei, Queen Fabiola of Belgium, and Emperor Hirohito of Japan. Their frequent world concert tours have made them the most travelled and far-reaching performing group in the Philippines.

The group's virtuosity across a vast repertoire range, its continuing promotion of Filipino choral works and the rousing and deeply emotional impact that each performance has on all audiences the world over as they sing in the distinctive set-up of sitting in a semi-circle without a conductor, have established their reputation as a pioneering force in choral music and an inspirational role model for other choirs. For this and their "significant contribution to the world of choral music, producing new compositions and choral settings, spreading the beauty of this genre and giving a good musical experience to the audience," the group became the 1st choir to ever receive the BrandLaureate Premier Award in 2012.



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The influence of the UP Madrigal Singers on the world choral scene has also been far-reaching. Alumni of the Madz have been encouraged to set-up and organize their own choirs. This network of choirs led by members and alumni of the Madz, called the Madz Et Al, stages what is today the country's biggest choral festival, bringing together almost a hundred choirs in a week-long series of performances - the first of many steps in pursuit of Andrea O. Veneracion's vision of a 'Singing Philippines'.

In parallel to its commitment to excellence in choral performance, the Madz has pursued a mission of nurturing the passion and love for choral singing. It has also built a reputation for being the 'school' for choral singing in the Philippines and the incubator of all things choral. Since the early 1970s, Professor Veneracion and her singers embarked on numerous outreach programs to the provinces with the support of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for the Arts. Many choir conductors, singers and choirs who have no opportunity or means to come to Manila have benefited from those local workshops and training programs. The Madz has also established the first MADZ MUSIC STUDIO in Eastwood City, Quezon City, Philippines, to cater to individual music lessons and choral sessions.

The work of the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers over the past fifty-five years has allowed them to be amongst various audiences, from the most prestigious performance halls of the world to simple town halls and school gymnasiums, from world leaders to small crowds in far-flung barangays who seldom hear choral music. Today, Professor Veneracion's designated successor Mark Anthony Carpio continues with the mission not just of leading the country's premier choir, but also to carry on the ongoing mission of developing choirs, conductors and singers all over the Philippines.

Every day, the Madz demonstrate that choral music can be socially relevant and transformational. In touching the hearts and souls of those who come to their performances, as well as in nurturing and developing future generations of conductors and choral singers, the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers have endeavored to become worthy of being designated UNESCO Artists for Peace.



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Mark Anthony A. Carpio **Artistic Director and Choirmaster**

Mark Anthony Carpio became the second Choirmaster of acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers in 2001, when he was selected to succeed its founder National Artist of the Philippines, Andrea O. Veneracion. Mark has taken the already much-awarded choir to even greater heights, when he led them to win first prizes in the Habanera and Polyphony categories in the Certámen Internacional de Habaneras y Polifonia (Torrevieja, Spain, 2004), the Grand Prix in the 35th Florilege Vocal de Tours, France (2006), the Grand Prize in the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing (Arrezo, Italy, 2007) and recently, the Grand Prix in the 64th Concorso Polifonico Guido d'Arezzo (Arezzo, Italy, 2016). Under his leadership, the choir continues to fulfill a gruelling schedule of yearly international concert tours, national outreach programs and its regular concert season as the resident choir of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Mark also serves as the Artistic Director of the CCP's Hands-On Choral Workshop since 2001 and the Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival since 2013. He also conducts the Sing Philippines Youth Choir, which draws its fifty members biennially from all provinces of the country, in honor of the Madrigal Singers' founder who established the vision of a nation singing together in harmony and united in song. Mark also directs the other Sing Philippines projects that include choral music workshops, and conductor/singer development initiatives.

Known for his collaboration with emerging composers, innovative programming, and approachability, Mark is a much sought-after choral clinician and coach, frequently giving extensive and in-depth workshops all over the Philippines and around the world. He is also frequently invited as adjudicator in choral competitions and as guest conductor of several choirs around the world, including the first batch of the Indonesia Youth Choir (2015).

Mark is a faculty member of the Conducting and Choral Ensemble Department of the University of the Philippines College of Music, where he earned his Master's degree in Choral Conducting and his Bachelor's degree in Piano.

Nurturing young singers is a personal passion of Mark. He also directs the Consortium of Voices, a choral society of young choristers, consisting of the Kilyawan Boys Choir, Kilyawan Male Choir and the Voces Auroræ Girls Choir.