

# SHOWBIZ & STYLE

## JOURNAL

### Journey man Pineda pays Arroyo a visit

by JOEL GUINTO  
Inquirer.net



Arnel Pineda (center) with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during a courtesy call in Malacañang.

**M**ANILA—The Filipino lead singer of the American rock band Journey serenaded President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with the group's signature hit, *Open Arms*, during a courtesy call at Malacañang on November 7, Friday.

Arnel Pineda, 41, sang a capella to the President, a *cabalen* or province mate from Pampanga, in the Palace Music Room, a Malacañang statement said.

Arroyo was "visibly happy" with the performance, said the statement, and told Pineda: "Welcome and congratulations for all your success."

Pineda said he was at the Palace "to tell the President, that as a *kababayan* [countryman], I was able to make it worldwide, internationally."

The visit was closed to media coverage.

Pineda was with his fiancée, Cherry; their son, Cherub; his father Restituto; and brothers Roderick and Russmon.

Journey signed Pineda up after seeing one of his performances on the video sharing website YouTube.

His singing has been likened to original Journey front man, Steve Perry.

Pineda said the group would stage a concert in the Philippines in April 2009, according to the Palace statement.

He is on a break after playing 72 shows with the band since February this year. ■

### Karylle to transfer to ABS-CBN

by GERRY PLAZA  
Inquirer.net

**M**ANILA—Singer Karylle, who only recently admitted breaking up with actor Dingdong Dantes, will move to ABS-CBN, her new management team said in a statement.

STAGES, which produced the successful local theater presentation of *West Side Story* that featured Karylle in the lead role of Maria, has taken over talent management duties for the singer. It said Karylle's transfer had the blessings of top GMA-7 executives Wilma Galvante and Darling de Jesus.

The move confirms rumors that the young singer was set to transfer to the Kapamilya network as a result of the break-up, widely believed to have been fueled by Dingdong's career choices and reports of an alleged romance with perennial co-star Marian Rivera. Marian vehemently denied any special relationship with Dingdong.

Dingdong and Marian are among the current top stars of GMA 7.

"As Karylle's new partner in the industry, we've been exploring the best projects for her, in and out of television networks, that will continuously hone her singing, acting and hosting skills. She's got incredible talent that is yet to realize its full potential," says Carlo Orosa, Business Head, STAGES Talent Group.

According to the statement, Karylle was "grateful to GMA-7 for the all the opportunities the network has given her. GMA-7 has been behind her success since the early years of her career." It also quoted

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