

Live 2Gether Show at the Golden Dragon

by HERBERT Y. MAGTOTO / Philstar.com

FORT Washington, Maryland. The producers of the show thought of doing a show last month if they could join together a renowned balladeer and a famous rock band. The show was billed *Live 2Gether at the Golden Dragon*. And it was a success. Anthony Castelo and the Kayumanggi Band shared the stage.

He charmed his fans with his timeless set of love songs. The reception was considerably warmer for the beautifully rendered *Pilipina, Hahanapin Ko, Dahil sa Pag-Ibig*. It was one magical night of mesmerizing music as he sang a Barry Manilow medley. The exquisite Anthony Castelo brought his set to a firm climax.

Things started promising enough with a fairly faithful tune of his OPM *Balatkayo*. He nailed *Balatkayo* and solicited an ovation. In between numbers he laughed with the audience when he threw some jokes. He also delivered his composition about the Vice-President candidate Parlin.

He called the Kayumanggi Band for his second set and had performed with such precision and vigor to the tune of Beatles rock and roll. So to hear those songs alongside, the audience stamped their feet to the dance floor.

And when the Kayumanggi Band took their set, they treated the audience to their rock tunes in the likes of Hagibis and VST & Company. Providing enough material to weave between the oldies, they delivered their version of Eric Capton's 'Wonderful Tonight' and Sharon Cuneta's *Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko*, followed by Queen Medley where the audience were transformed into a somewhat like Hard Rock Café audience.

What made the show so captivating during the show was how the renowned balladeer and a famous rock band managed to harness the energy of the ballad and rock but apply it to some fairly complex arrangements.

People from Baltimore, Washington D.C., and New Jersey went to see the show. Spotted were Assemblyman David Valderama, his daughter Congresswoman Kris Valderama, Imelda and Butch Oliver from the Immigration Office, and Dr. Pasatiempo, to name a few.

Collectively, the show was a memorable one because a renowned balladeer and a famous rock band shared the stage. Yet while 2Gether show was not launched, the live show had its moments, it was the best satisfying evening to the jaunty performance of Anthony Castelo and the Kayumanggi Band put on at this very venue, the Golden Dragon, just a month ago by the producers Ed Sunico of EdSun Entertainment and John Ynayan of Prime Cargo and Newstar Philippines. ■



Anthony Castelo (inset) and the Kayumanggi Band



Why Cherie & Roni broke up

funfare

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Philstar.com



YES, it's true: Cherie Gil and Roni Rogoff have parted ways—after 20 years!

Funfare learned that they actually have been contemplating on going their separate ways as early as two years ago but reached a final decision only last June when

Cherie turned 45.

So what, so to speak, broke the camel's back?

"Geography," said Cherie.

She and Roni were married in a simple ("Almost secret," said Cherie) ceremony in 1994 in the Philippines.

They tried living together in various parts of the world (five years in Venice, etc., or wherever Roni was performing), with Roni even agreeing to live for a while in the Philippines, but they just couldn't seem to agree "geographically."

"We started to move in opposite directions," said Cherie, "and drifted apart."

No, there's no third party involved.

"Not on my part," said Cherie, half in jest.

Their two children, Bianca, 12, and Raphael, 10, are with Roni in Israel where they are studying in an American school. Cherie's other son, Jay, 21, is with her; while Renee, Roni's daughter with ex-wife Ping Valencia, is on her own in New York.

"I can visit the children anytime I want to," clarified Cherie.

Has her decision to return to showbiz anything to do with the break-up?

"No, none at all," said Cherie. "Roni has no objection as far as my showbiz career is concerned."

Meanwhile, Cherie keeps herself busy. She's in the cast of *Pieta*, an ABS-CBN teleserye based on the Carlo J. Caparas movie, and playing Maria Callas in the play *Master Class* (slated Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at the RCBC Theater, Makati City).

"Roni and I remain friends," stressed Cherie. "We parted amicably."



Rita's precious little book

I just got a copy of Rita Avila's precious little book titled *8 Ways to Comfort with Grace* written in memory of her and husband (TV director) Erick Reyes' son Elia Jesu who lived for only three weeks (Nov. 10 to Dec. 2, 2006).

Here's a summary of the "8 ways":

- The First Way — Fewer words are better appreciated...
- The Second Way — Be reminded that clichés do not give comfort...
- The Third Way — Be selfless, be mindful...be thoughtful...
- The Fourth Way — The sweetest gesture is touch and no words at all...
- The Fifth Way — Offer any little help that you can give...
- The Sixth Way — If scared to view the body, stay close with the family...
- The Seventh Way — Allow the grieving person to act as she pleases...
- The Eighth Way — If you cannot face the grief of others with grace, better not...

(Note: The book, cute enough to fit in your breast pocket, is available at St. Paul's Bookstores in SM Malls, Gateway, Ali Mall, St. Paul Street and Don Bosco [Makati City], and World of Feng Shui. For wholesale order, call landline 896-6771.)

Did Lani, Regine try to upstage each other?



Did Lani Misalucha and Regine Velasquez really try to "outshine" or steal scenes from each other during their recent concert in New York?

Here's the real score, according to Funfare's Big Apple correspondent Edmund Silvestre: Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez and Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha's The Main Event concert at New Jersey's Newark Symphony Hall last Sept. 20

delivered what could be the best Filipino concert ever staged in the US East Coast, bar none.

There were no pyrotechnics, no lavish set, no flying trapeze. Just the raw talent of two astonishing artists backed by impressive sound and lighting systems, and a brilliant band led by veteran musicians Lorie Ilustre and Cesar Aguas.

For almost three hours, Regine and Lani — both renowned for their extensive vocal ranges — took the stage like goddesses (in their ravishing gowns) sent from the heavens to regale mortals.

None of the two, it seemed, intentionally upstaged the other. But it was obvious that they were both on guard, each making sure the other wouldn't pull a trick on the other.

During a back-to-back of original Filipino songs, Regine belted *Narito Ako* with much gusto, which Lani followed up with a soulful *Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin*. Not to be outdone, Regine came up with a powerful rendition of *Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin*, which Lani challenged with a magnificent rendition of *Ikaw Lang Mamahalin*. Both got long and rolling applause from an awed crowd.

From the opening salvo — a choreographed rendition of a medley from the film *Dreamgirls* and followed by Beyoncé and Shakira's *Beautiful Liar* — to their encore of '70s disco hits (*I Will Survive*, *Enough Is Enough*, *Raining Men*), Regine and Lani managed to sustain high energy level throughout this concert produced by Calla Lilly Entertainment Production.

They elicited guffaws as they traded banter — unscripted, the two claimed — about Regine's "inexperience" in relationships, Ogie Alcasid's height, the Reycards ("Sino sa atin si Carding?" Regine asked), Zsa Zsa Padilla and Armida Siguion-Reyna's styles of singing, and even about their own powerful vocal ranges.

Halfway through the show, special guest Christopher de Leon came out to wild cheers. True to Regine's intro, Christopher is not only a great dramatic actor, but also a great singer. Well, not that great but good enough to hold his own in the presence of Regine and Lani. After his two solos, the dashing actor — still a babe magnet after all these years — joined the two divas in a beautiful and nostalgic number, *Umagang Kay Ganda*. Their voices blended well that gave Christopher a shining moment on stage.

Lani and Regine had an equal footing — almost! — in their New Jersey showdown until Lani pulled a bravura performance of *Nessun Dorma*, an Italian aria that became her killer signature song even in Las Vegas that could leave all her competition in the dust.

It was so breathtaking that even Regine's splendid rendition of *On The Wings of Love* was no match. Lani's *Nessun Dorma* was a tour de force that deserves a spot at New York's Metropolitan Opera, or perhaps a duet with tenor Andrea Bocelli. Not a far fetched idea considering that Lani has already performed on stage with Josh Groban.

With *Nessun Dorma*, the Nightingale soared higher than the Songbird. ■

CHEER FACTOR

Cooking stars



MANILA—Kris Aquino and John Lloyd Cruz can cook! Kris drew quite a crowd when she appeared as guest cook for the Magnolia Chicken Station at the recent Food Showdown 2008 at the World Trade Center.

"I relax at home by cooking," Kris told her audience. "My roast chicken is very good. I also do chicken fricassee and chicken salad. And my chicken pork *adobo* is *Kapampangan*-style, with liver."

Meanwhile, John Lloyd, Greenwich endorser, proved that he knew his way around the kitchen, by personally preparing the pizzas served at a press party. "I'm not a heartthrob," he told *Living Stars*, smiling. "A hot-throb, yes. I can take the heat." (Inquirer.net)



Remy's on Temple

Free admission

SINGGALOT
The Ties that Bind

"A single twig breaks easily, but, when bound together, as in galot, there is tremendous strength."

SINGGALOT
The Ties that Bind

Filipinos in America
From Colonial Subjects to Citizens

1941 to 1959

The U.S. enters World War II as it declares war against Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. President Frankling D. Roosevelt later issues on Executive Order that awards Filipinos full veteran's benefits if they enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Almost 9,000 enlist to become the First and Second Filipino Infantry Regiments. "60 years later, the veterans await this order to be implemented".

Filipino wives of U.S. military men are allowed to immigrate with the passing of the War Brides Act, contributing to the Second Wave of Filipino immigrants that consisted of war brides and fiancées of WWII personnel and veterans, nurses, students, tourists, and U.S. Navy men.

Donations are welcome and Hifi souvenir gifts are available at www.filipinosinhollywood.com (click on FIH Store link). All proceeds will be donated to the Singgalot exhibit to help defray transport costs of the exhibit to the next location, Stockton.

Partners in support of the exhibit include, but are not limited to, the Filipino American Library, Filipinos in Hollywood, Historic Filipinotown and SIPA.