

# A Concert for a Cause SMB Wind Ensemble Raises Funds For RP College Scholars

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO  
AJPress



Santa Maria Wind Ensemble



Conductor Noel Buan

**WE** ARE blessed to bless others. That's what Noel Buan, conductor of SMB Wind Ensemble, believes. Thus, SMB's second concert on March 22 at the Celebrity Center in Hollywood, is a *Concert for a Cause*. The proceeds of the unique concert will go to an educational fund that will sponsor the college education of 10-20 less fortunate students in Sta. Maria Bulacan, Buan's hometown.

"Growing up, I saw how financially difficult it was for my parents to send my siblings and me to school," admitted Noel who also plays Tuba at the Fil-Am Symphony Orchestra (FASO) under Maestro Bob Schroeder. "So, I want to give back to our hometown of Sta. Maria by sending poor students to college," he said.

Buan, who graduated from UP Diliman with a degree in Bachelor of Music, major in tuba performance, was a member of Banda 31, Sta. Maria Bulacan and a former tuba player of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under Maestro Oscar Yatco. Coming from a family of musicians, Noel's parents and grandfather were also tuba players. His wife, Josie, also used to be a member of the Sta. Maria Band, playing the French horn. Their four children are all musicians - JJ plays the trumpet; JJ plays the clarinet; Kristine, the flute; and RJ the trombone. Their whole family is a part of the SMB Wind Ensemble.

The ensemble originally began with 8 members within his immediate family and relatives and was invited to monthly meetings to play religious hymns such as *Ave Maria*. After continuous practices and small gigs, Noel began to expand the size of his band. He first asked his sister, Ning Manahan, a talented vocalist who will be performing a solo at the upcoming concert, to teach her two young and talented sons how to play percussion instruments. From there, a handful of friends and family joined in through word-of-mouth and constant networking. The group now performs at occasions such as Filipino town fiestas, playing many requested songs and marches. The SMB Wind Ensemble had their first concert back in December 2006 and received tremendous appreciation from the audience.

On March 22, the 35-strong SMB Wind Ensemble will perform at the Celebrity Center Garden Pavilion Hall with a variety of music such as Classical Overtures, *Kundiman* and Popular music. Solo acts will feature principal clarinetist Rommel Agatep who will perform *Carnival De Venice* and returning guest Soprano, Ning Manahan, who will sing one of Francisco Santiago's compositions, *Pakiusap*. The 20-member St. Denis Filipino Choir will also be featured under the direction of Joe Manahan.

SMB welcomes everyone to come to the concert where a vast variety of music will be played for your entertainment. Noel says, "all the proceeds of this concert will contribute towards scholarships for students who are less fortunate in the Philippines. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated and your help will make a tremendous effect on the lives of many." For tickets please call (714) 329-4422 or (562) 858-5188.

For directions, please call (323) 960-3100. ■

## Max's Puente Hills introduces 'Personal Best' program

**WHO** SAYS you can't have great food at great value? Max's Puente Hills Mall recently launched its "Personal Best" program designed especially for these budget-sensitive times.

The "Personal Best" program features personal-size meals so full of value that customers will surely appreciate. "We are very responsive to our market. These days, people are looking for real value...so we came up with our Personal-Size Meals. It's a combination of the right size and the right price—plus of course, Max's tradition of authentic Filipino cuisine," said Liza Abraham, Max's Puente Hills Operations Manager.

"Also quite popular on our menu are the Lunch Specials. These are tailored for busy people who are looking for a quick bite. At \$6.95, it's truly a Power Lunch, consisting of an entree, a choice of soup, salad or appetizer, plus dessert and soda. Isn't that an incredible value?" Abraham added.

Indeed, these creations from the restaurant's in-house Chef are by no means ordinary. Value Menu items range from Max's famous Chicken to seafood favorites such as Tilapia, Mahi-Mahi, Salmon and Shrimp.

"We even have our Personal-Size Surf and Turf Specials consisting of Angus Sirloin Steak with choice of Shrimp or Calamari for only \$9.95," added Ms. Abraham.

Finally, Max's also offers great Family Value Meal options. According to Ms. Abraham, "A whole Max's Chicken is only \$9.95 when you order it To Go, instead of the regular price of \$12.95. Plus you can add a side of *Pancit Bihon* or *Lumpiang Shanghai* for just \$3.95 per order. So there's no reason why you and your family can enjoy a delicious Max's treat at home!"

Since it opened six months ago, Max's Puente Hills has been gaining a reputation as the dining and entertainment showcase of Southern California.

The restaurant's elegant interiors, excellent service and exceptional food quality have set it apart from other Filipino restaurants.

It also has spacious function rooms, as well as an outdoor patio for parties, events, business meetings and other gatherings. Set Party Packages are also available to suit any budget. "Inquiries about party or event bookings are always welcome. We can customize any package to meet our customer's needs," said Ms. Abraham.

Max's of Manila at the Puente Hills Mall is located at 1600 S. Azusa Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91740. Phone: (626) 965-0032 / (626) 363-1766. For more information, visit their website: [www.maxspuentehills.com](http://www.maxspuentehills.com).



(Advertising Supplement)

## Rev up your appetite with the new Jeepney Asian Grill

**IF YOU THINK** that you've already tasted the best grills and dishes the Filipino cuisine has to offer, think again.

Inspired by the Philippines' most popular form of public transportation, the new Jeepney Asian Grill is now ready to take the City of Angels to an exciting culinary journey. True to its tagline, The Delicious Joyride, this superbly clean and comfortable casual dining restaurant will surely satisfy its customer's appetite with the choices of Filipino grills and favorites it offers. Among these mouth-watering meals include all-time Filipino favorites like Grilled Pork Skewers, Braised Pork *Adobo*, Grilled Chicken with special peanut sauce, Tamarind Shrimp and Salmon *Sinigang* Soup and Stir-fried *Canton*, all cooked to perfection.

In addition to the long list of its Filipino grills and favorites, Jeepney Asian Grill is also the best stop to enjoy a diverse mix authentic Asian cuisine. Who could ever resist the luscious taste of Thailand's spicy Seafood in Green Curry, Japan's Grilled Salmon Teriyaki, Korea's Kalbi Beef Short ribs, and more, all beautifully and delectably presented by its well-trained and friendly staff.

The Jeepney Asian Grill is proudly owned and managed by Danny Moran, one of the Philippines' most respected and successful restaurateurs. Moran was the recipient of the Ernst and Young 10 Most Outstanding Entrepreneurs in 2006 and has been in the local and international food business for almost 30 years. Moran guarantees an exceptional food bonding to families and friends through Jeepney's great ambiance and quality service they bring.

Jeepney Asian Grill carries the same thought that made this once US military jeep a Filipino pride

- creative, bright, unique and service-oriented. With its deliciously distinct value for money food, superb service and a dash of world-renowned Filipino hospitality, the Jeepney Asian Grill team is all set to transport you to an exceptional dining experience like never before!

Jeepney Asian Grill is located at 11900 South St., Suite 101 in Cerritos, California. Call (562) 207-0070.



Jeepney Asian Grill is located at 11900 South St., Suite 101, Cerritos, CA 90703. Call (562) 207-0070. (Advertising Supplement)

## Megaworld unveils The Venice

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The Piazza Grande of the Venetian Mall offers a festive atmosphere all year long. At right is the St. Mark's Tower.

"We have carefully designed and planned a Venetian-style luxury residential condominium with avant garde amenities that bring back Old World romanticism to be experienced in these modern times," stated Megaworld International Managing Director, Marivic Acosta

The project will feature seven residential towers, the first of which is Allesandro. As seen from the sky, each build-

ing resembles a ferro - the gondola's uniquely shaped iron head. Tones of chrome yellow and bright orange perfectly distinguish The Venice's towers in the 50-hectare McKinley Hill township development.

To make sure that The Venice remains true to its origins and inspiration, Megaworld consulted the Italian architectural firm Paolo Marioni Architetto.

More than 20 different amenities are planned so that residents will love living in this project daily. Young and old alike will surely enjoy taking a lap at the expansive swimming pool bordered by Italian sculptures of the mythological gods, including Venus. Those with green thumbs and an affinity for nature will take daily walks to the palm court, meditation garden, garden court and rock garden.

Active bodies will take warm-up sessions at the adult fitness station before using up their reserved slots at the badminton court and tennis court. After an exhilarating game, a visit to the sauna or spa is in order to relax the muscles.

Since The Venice's seven towers are perfectly integrated with the McKinley Hill Town Center's

Venetian Mall, residents have more choices to play and while away the time.

They can take a romantic gondola ride along the Grand Canal and exchange hugs and kisses once they pass the Rialto Bridge - a perfect replica of Venice's famous landmark. Climb the St. Mark's Tower - another well-known Venetian icon -- to imbibe the beautiful scenery even more.

Shop to their hearts' delight at the promenade and then have some pictures taken with the lovely Clock Tower at the background. And be amazed at the talent of the stand-up acts and singers at the Piazza Grande.

"Truly, The Venice boasts of a leisurely, romantic way of living not found anywhere else in the metro," Acosta asserted.

For more information on the residential units at The Venice - whether for investment or actual use of your family - contact Authorized US sales representatives are Dina Bough cell no: (001)916-955-7653; Angie Contreras cell no: (001) 323-336-7658 and Eduardo Bondoc cell no.; (1) 650-834-6030. Manila office: Geevee Ventanilla of Megaworld International at 12F Petron MegaPlaza Building, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines, call (632) 889-9114 or (632) 889-9115, fax (632) 889-7393, email [global@megaworld-corp.com](mailto:global@megaworld-corp.com) or visit [www.megaworldinternational.com](http://www.megaworldinternational.com). (Advertising Supplement)

## Incredible Values this year at Chowking

**CHOWKING**, the Philippine's leading Oriental fast-food chain, recently launched a new campaign showcasing its value menu selections.

"We aggressively rolled out our 2.99 for 2009 Campaign early this year...in response to the needs of our market. We want to show our customers that we're with them in these difficult times. This is why we are offering all these great choices at incredibly low prices. I mean, where can you get a *Longanisa* Meal or a *Chicken* Meal for just \$2.99?" said Andrew Quemuel, Chowking-US Operations Manager.

Another great thing is that Chowking also offers a wide variety of tempting items for breakfast, lunch, merienda and dinner - from its signature noodle soups, dimsum, rice meals, *merienda* as well as shakes and *halo-halo*.

Seasonal products are also introduced on a monthly basis so that customers will always find something new and exciting at Chowking. "New on the menu are the Seafood Meals, the *Lumpia Especial* (Fresh Spring Roll) and the Szechuan Crunchy Chicken," said Mr. Quemuel.

"But what has been gaining real popularity among our customers is our new Salo-Salo Set Meals. These are meal combinations that are good for 4 to 6 persons. Perfect for sharing with friends or family!" he explained.

To enjoy these delicious Chowking specials, visit any of its 16 locations in California and Nevada. In the Los Angeles County, outlets are in Carson/Phone (310) 835-7100, South St.-Cerritos/Phone (562) 924-5096, Norwalk Blvd.-Cerritos/Phone (562) 207-9505, Eagle Rock/Phone (323) 254-4566, North Hills/Phone (818) 830-0602, Panorama/Phone (818) 988-8374, Puente Hills Mall/Phone (626) 363-1977 and West Covina/Phone (626) 810-4511. (Advertising Supplement)

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## Coming Soon From Homestead...

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Education Title IV program. By every measure, this has been a long, exacting process which actually started last year when Homestead Schools applied to Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) for recognition as a provider of training in health-related fields. ABHES requires a very thorough application documenting school's curriculum, lesson plans, accounting and auditing system, faculty and student counseling support, and financial resources of the school. ABHES is an entity nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that each school approved to disburse federal student aid or guaranteed loans meets certain minimum educational and financial standards. A team of experts visited the school, inspected the facilities, reviewed school records, interviewed faculty, administrative staff, and students, and passed on the adequacy of clinical training sites used by the students.

At the conclusion, Homestead passed with flying colors. In fact, the school exceeded the "technology" standard by providing individual computers to

students in the classroom which they use for taking various exams, practice NCLEX-style questions, and do research on the Internet. Each student also receives a free laptop computer when the student enrolls in the program which is used to hone test-taking skills. At the annual conference in Las Vegas the school received a special recognition award for passing the inspection with "zero deficiency."

For the next step, the school has submitted its application to the Department of Education, which when approved will allow it to offer financial aid and federally guaranteed loans to its students. This may happen in the next 3-4 months. But here's the kicker. Students who enroll in the VN class now will be eligible to participate in this federal program retroactively.

New classes for aspiring vocational nurses and nurse assistants are continuously forming. The school is located at 23844 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 200, Torrance, CA 90505 and can be reached at (310) 791-9975. Ask for their student counselor George Dayrit. He'll put you on the path to a new career.

(Advertising Supplement)