

A Concert for a Cause

Sta. Maria Wind Ensemble blows the crowd away!

ON SUNDAY NIGHT, March 22, *Concert for a Cause* was surely an event to see. The concert was intended for the struggling students in the Philippines who can benefit from a scholarship. The Celebrity Centre in Hollywood gave a vibrant mood to the atmosphere as the maestro Noel Buan conducted his heart out.



AJPress Photos by Andy Tecson

The evening began with the traditional *Star-Spangled Banner* and of course the anthem of the Philippines, *Lupang Hinirang*. The crowd did not get disappointed as this concert was truly an extraordinary concert that actually kept them awake the whole time.

There was playing, singing, acting and even dancing. The soloist, Rommel Agatep on Clarinet, along with the duet of the brothers Nino Buan (trumpet) and Ralph Buan (trombone) revealed the exceptional talent that this upcoming ensemble had. The singers, Luningning Manahan and Joemari Manahan, did not fail to please the crowd as they sang some famous songs like *Pakiusap* and *This is the Moment*.

There was even a choir who performed some great hits. All of this was already astonishing, however this ensemble did not fail to give the audience more. The great arrangements like *Top Hits*, which featured the great songs like *She Bangs*, *Let's Get Loud*, *Maria* and *Tagalog Medley* which featured the Filipino greats like *Kastilyong Buhangin*, *Ngayon*

at *Kailanman*, *Kailangan Kita* kept the crowd moving and grooving to this ensemble's beat. Also, the stellar acting and singing of talented kids to the musical *Annie*, kept the crowd wowed and amazed!

The band ended just the way it started, great! It ended with some of the most popular songs in the music world, like *Rocky* and *Beatles*. While, it was sad to see it go to an end they again pleased the crowd with some food like *pancit*, *adobo* and *Krispy Kreme* for FREE! This is a night that not only Noel Buan and his whole musical family will not forget, but also the crowd that watched every note they sang, played and danced to. The Sta. Maria Wind Ensemble is one band that one should keep their eye on because they had the crowd saying "What's next?!" Everyone is waiting to see what is in store for this young and upcoming ensemble. Well, in April of 2010, the band plans to play another wonderful concert and if anyone would like to sponsor this band feel free to contact because a young band needs all the help they can get. Please contact Maestro Noel Buan at (714) 329-4422. ■



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From PAGE B5
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