

RP world's democratic beacon, says Clinton

by LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
Inquirer.net

MANILA —United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has conveyed her greetings to the Philippines in the 111th anniversary of its independence, lauding the country for serving as "beacon of democratic values to the world."

"On behalf of the people of the United States, let me extend my congratulations and warmest wishes to the people of the Philippines as you celebrate the 111th anniversary of your declaration of independence," Clinton said in a statement released by the US embassy here.

"The Philippines is a nation with a proud history, a vibrant

culture. And since declaring your independence more than a century ago, you have served as a beacon of democratic values to the world," she said.

Clinton noted that the Philippines has also been in the forefront of peacekeeping initiatives in the region and as partner of the US in security matters.

"The United States is proud of the many ties that connect our nations. We are grateful for the leadership you have shown in Asia and around the globe, as peacekeepers and partners in security and prosperity," she said.

"The United States is grateful for our friendship and partnership with the Philippines which has brought many benefits to the people of both our nations, and we are committed to continuing our friendship and finding new ways to work together in the months and years to come, for the good of our two countries and the world," Clinton said.

The former first lady said the United States would work to strengthen its ties with the Philippines, which has been home to about 100,000 Americans who now work and live here.

She said there are also about four millions Filipino-American who are in the US engaged in various professions. ■



Michael Dadap and his wife Yeou-Cheng Ma, the driving force behind the Children's Orchestra Society, after the orchestra's rousing performance at the Carnegie Hall.
AJP/Press Photo by Momar G. Visaya

Filipino conductor returns to Carnegie Hall

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJP/Press

NEW YORK—Music director and conductor Michael Dadap made a triumphant return to the Carnegie Hall last week, steering the Young Symphonic Ensemble to a glorious night of music.

The event celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Children's Orchestra Society, a nonprofit organization established by Hiao-Tsiun Ma. Ma's daughter Yeou-Cheng Ma, the orchestra's executive director is Dadap's

wife. The couple revived the orchestra in 1984 after a hiatus in 1977 when the elder Ma retired.

"We are very, very happy with the turnout and the support of our friends," Dadap exclaimed at the after-party, still beaming with excitement.

Dadap, as an accomplished classical guitarist, made his Carnegie Recital Hall debut in 1974 and has since performed internationally.

A Philosophy graduate from the University of the Philippines, Dadap pursued music studies at Mannes College of Music and The Juilliard School.

In collaboration with the Children's Orchestra Society faculty and staff, Dadap initiated and developed teaching and orchestral training programs, including ear-training for the young, chamber music for all levels, and an emphasis on reading music, which all have become permanent signatures of the orchestra.

The husband and wife tandem of Dadap and Ma has been the moving force behind the success of the children's orchestra, and this was clearly and properly acknowledged by the evening's surprise guest.

"Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Yo-Yo Ma," the man on stage announced as the second act was supposed to start. The audience clapped enthusiastically to acknowledge his presence.

The accomplished cellist dart-

ed onstage holding a guitarist's foot rest, as Dadap, who entered the stage with his wife, wondered where his podium went. It turns out that the three mentors prepared something extra special for the audience that evening. As a family (Dadap's wife Yeou-Cheng is Yo-Yo Ma's sister), they performed a Filipino kundiman, with Dadap's guitar, Yo-Yo's cello and Yeou-Cheng's violin blending perfectly. This surprise number became one of the most well applauded numbers in the program.

The orchestra performed the overture to Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* and they were awarded with wild applause and ovation from the audience. The evening's "2009 Discovery Artist," Sheena Tsai took center stage as the soloist for *Saint-Saëns's Violin Concerto No. 3*.

Guest musicians—the violinist Soovin Kim, the cellist Eric Jacobsen and the pianist Orli Shaham—collaborated with the orchestra for Beethoven's Concerto with such aplomb that led the audience to a standing ovation.

"I'd never have thought 40 years ago that the Children's Orchestra Society would be performing here at the Carnegie Hall," remarked Yo-Yo Ma as he thanked his sister and brother-in-law for a job well done. "Thank you for making this extraordinary evening possible. I was very moved," he said. ■

PANIOTTO LAW FIRM

(213) 637-5623

ATTORNEY'S CELL: (213) 820-0434
(MON - SUN 10AM - 10PM)

IMMIGRATION, DEPORTATION,
BANKRUPTCY*, DIVORCE
& CRIMINAL DEFENSE**
LOAN MODIFICATION



Dmitry Paniotto
Immigration Attorney



Ritchy Obando
Law Clerk



RUBEN MARTINEZ
Former Immigration Officer



James Hagan**
Criminal Defense
Attorney



Bridget Howze*
Our Bankruptcy and
Family Law Attorney

www.dmitrylaw.com

John's Watch Repair

WATCH BATTERY CHANGED

Starting at **\$2.99**

EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2009

6748 SEPULVEDA BL. IN VAN NUYS
818.988.9385

HANLON LAW GROUP, P.C.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S #1 IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM



Daniel P. Hanlon, Esq.
California State Bar Certified Specialist
in Immigration & Nationality Law

Hanlon Law Group, P.C. has led greater Los Angeles area law firms in providing aggressive, expert representation and in client satisfaction for the past ten years.

Offering reasonable fees for the most aggressive and competent representation in the Los Angeles area. Specializing in all facets of US Immigration Law, Federal Litigation, Appeals and related matters.

Call (800) 976-5675 to schedule your FREE initial consultation with a qualified expert today!

HLG
HANLON
LAW GROUP, P.C.