

# Bahay Kubo

## *The Music of Life*

AJPress photos by Andy Tecson and Bert Jaurigue

*The Music of Life: Awit ng Buhay* is a contemporary revue, featuring songs from the extensive catalog of Maestro Ryan Cayabyab. The diverse cast of pop singers, choral groups and traditional folk dancers perform the diverse genres of Cayabyab's work. Compositions are presented in true to their original form or as arranged by Cayabyab himself, which varies from contemporary acappella to sacred choral work, from pop songs to musicale excerpts.

The night's selections are culled from different albums and bodies of work, from different periods of his 30+ year career. The songs are sequenced and staged to enhance the audience's understanding of the songs' themes, and at the same time illustrating how Cayabyab has skillfully captured the Filipino psyche in his compositions. Although he writes in English and Latin, the show's script provides apt annotation for the superbly crafted Tagalog songs, too poetic to simply translate.

The audience came away with a better understanding of Philippine culture, and recognized the universal breadth and sophistication of a versatile and accomplished composer who is proudly Filipino and the pride of Filipinos: Maestro Ryan Cayabyab. ■

