

United to inspire

TRUST pop diva Kuh Ledesma to come up with the most amazing shows, as proven by the successful *Divas 2 Diva*, *Power of 2*, and the most recent hit tour, *Divas 4 Divas*. Her current *Unity Tour* brings together 7 amazing artists in one amazing show: Kuh Ledesma, Christian Bautista, Isabella, Carlo Orosa, Nanette Inventor, Jograd dela Torre and Charlie Green.

During the recent *Unity Tour* press conference in Maegon's Grill in Torrance, producers Benny Lagos and Henry Chen proudly presented four of the seven performing artists -Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabella, Nanette Inventor, and Jograd dela Torre. Charlie Green, Christian Bautista and Carlo Orosa are set to arrive later this week.

Kuh explained that the show is a concert with a purpose -- to bring together Filipinos in the US and Canada, to encourage them in their faith and to inspire them in these challenging times. "In God's

Word, we learn that 7 is God's perfect number. That's why Unity Tour features seven artists. We share a lot of things in common -- our faith in Jesus Christ and our passion to inspire people. We know the power of uniting people," said Kuh.

The four artists in the press conference were one in advocating the importance of putting God first and living by faith. Nanette said trials are sent to test our faith and mold our character. Jograd shared that there is no one but God who can help us, so he advises, "focus lang tayo sa Panginoon. Storms come and go. Basta, kapit lang tayo sa Diyos and our faith will see us through."

"God allows bad things to happen *para mapalapit tayo sa Kanya*," said Kuh, who admitted that her separation from her husband, Louie Gonzalez, ten years ago devastated her but drew her closer to the Lord. "Before, I was so focused on other things. But that has changed. Jesus is my number 1. And I praise God because as I read the Bible, I learn that there are so many promises I can claim."

Isabella was asked how she felt upon the release of her father after



time in prison. She answered excitedly, "My father is now a free man! He was framed and my prayer is that he will be kept safe by God. I believe that there is a reason why God allowed things to happen. I believe His purpose will be revealed in time."

Asked by the press if there is a possibility of a "unity tour" with her and Louie, Kuh answered with a smile, "We leave that to the Lord. You'll never know. It's His department."

The tour, which will benefit Typhoon Ondoy victims, will cover 4 places in North America: New Jersey, San Jose CA, Long Beach CA and Vancouver, Canada. Those in Southern California will be able to catch the show at the Long Beach Convention Center, Terrace Theatre on October 24, 2009 at 7pm.

(Advertising Supplement)

A blend of the old ...

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"We are really grateful for the positive reception that FASO has received from the community since its inception a year ago," said Roger Oriel, chairman of the Asian Journal Foundation, which established the first Filipino American Symphony Orchestra. "We now have many new members --- really talented musicians who believe in our vision to promote Filipino arts and culture through the FASO," he added.

Some of the new members of FASO who will play in *Handog* are Justina Nadal, the new Concert Mistress, Lisa Grzanka Violin 1, Albert Romero - Violin I, Colleen Papp - Bassoon, Asuncion Ojeda - Flute/Piccolo, Rolando Santos - Trumpet, Arnel Ignacio- Principal Clarinet and Janice Foy - Cello.

Handog ng FASO sa Pasko will feature well-loved Pinoy Christ-

mas carols and excerpts from *Handel's Messiah* performed by a full symphony orchestra, a chorus and a children's choir. Filipino artists coming together to present the true spirit of a true Filipino Christmas.

Part of the proceeds of the Christmas concerto will benefit the flood victims in the Philippines. Tickets are being sold from \$48-\$100. For more details, call Asian Journal (213) 250-9797; Larry Tiamzon, (626) 512-5726, Ticketmaster, (866) 448-7849, Andy Tecson, (323) 467-5096; Robert Shroder (818) 395-8936 or the Pasadena Civic Auditorium (626) 449-7360.

Watch *Handog ng FASO sa Pasko* and discover why FASO is fast becoming synonymous to great FilAm musical entertainment in LA. Your Christmas won't be complete without it! ■

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