

Edsel Godwin Sotiangco

The Golden Boy with the Golden Voice

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO / AJPress

First solo concert on July 18 at the Celebrity Theatre in Hollywood

APTLY titled *This is the Moment*, the first solo concert of 11-year-old Edsel Godwin Sotiangco will be held at the prestigious Celebrity Theatre for the Performing Arts, in Hollywood on July 18. Edsel has amazed audiences to no end with his tremendous talent which has earned him the title, "The Golden Boy with the Golden Voice."

Ever since he was first discovered last July 2007 at the US Philippine Expo in Pomona, the phenomenal boy wonder has been captivating the hearts of fans everywhere. He has performed onstage with some of the biggest names in the Fil-Am music industry—Apl de Ap of the Black Eyed Peas, Florante, Nora Aunor, Martin Nievera, Dolphy, Judy Ann Santos, Jed Madela, AJ Tavaldo, Ramielle Malubay etc. Edsel was also a runner-up in the 2008 Hollywood's Best

New Talent Award held in Kodak Theatre last year.

What sets Edsel apart is his amazingly high voice range which is very rare for a boy. While there are currently many little girl singers, there are hardly any boy singers; in fact, some have said Edsel is the only outstanding Filipino boy singer today. His voice, which is in the soprano range, is very high pitched; thus he can easily sing the songs of Celine Dion, Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston without much



AJPress photos by Andy Tecson

effort. His voice coaches say there is no boy currently performing in the Filipino community as good as Edsel in his age range. That's why people call him "The Golden Boy."

The son of insurance whiz, Eddie Sotiangco, who was also a singer and dubbed as the Elvis Presley of the Fil-Am community, the eleven year old singer remains humble and does not want to call attention to himself. In fact, he doesn't want his classmates at the First Lutheran School in Glendale to know that he's a performer. "He gets embarrassed and does

not want to get teased so Edsel prefers not to tell his teachers and classmates that he performs in concerts," said his mother, Becky. Now in grade 6, Edsel has been a consistent straight A student. "Even when he has rehearsals and shows, Edsel never fails to do his homework. In fact, the earliest he sleeps is 12mn and he wakes up early to make sure he has done his school assignments," Becky added.

With his dad as his 24/7 coach, Edsel is preparing for the concert everyday. "All the songs that he'll be

singing are custom-built to his voice, with orchestra accompaniment," revealed the golden boy's proud father, Eddie. "We are working hard to make sure Edsel's concert will be one of the best concerts in town. There will be surprise celebrities and guest performers. There will be music videos, back-up singers and terrific dance numbers like a Las Vegas show. The concert's going to be a real treat and parts of the proceeds will go to Bantay Bata," Eddie added.

Aside from practicing for his grand concert, Edsel is also busy recording songs every week for his album which will come out in time for the affair. "I'm so excited about my concert because it's the first time that I will perform solo. I want to use the talents that God gave me and excel in music," Edsel said.

Before and after every performance, Eddie and Edsel never forget to pray. "We ask the Lord to guide us. God gave Edsel the talent and it's up to Him to use it in the way He wants to. I



Galing Pinoy showcases the triumph of the Filipino spirit—the Filipino's innate perseverance to rise above. A double entendre, **Galing Pinoy** literally translates to both coming from (or brought to you by) the Filipino and Filipino ingenuity.



always tell Edsel, 'it's not about you. God can take away your talents in just a second so never be proud.' That's why, Edsel always asks the Holy Spirit to help him perform. It's important to be humble, always," said Eddie. With his amazing talents and such golden words to guide him, the golden boy will surely go a long, long way to fame and fortune. And his grand concert on July 18 is expected to be the grand moment to firmly establish Edsel Sotiangco in the performing arts industry. ■

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by ALAN FRAM
APWriter

WASHINGTON—In a high-tech shift accelerated by the recession, the number of US households opting for only cell phones has for the first time surpassed those that just have traditional landlines.

It is the freshest evidence of the growing appeal of wireless phones.

Twenty percent of households had only cells during the last half of 2008, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey released Wednesday. That was an increase of nearly 3 percentage points over the first half of the year, the largest six-month increase since the government started gathering such data in 2003.

The 20 percent of homes with only cell phones compared with 17 percent with landlines but no cells.

That ratio has changed starkly in recent years: In the first six months of 2003, just 3 percent of households were wireless only, while 43 percent stuck with only landlines.

Stephen Blumberg, senior scientist at the CDC and an author of the report, attributed the growing number of cell-only households in part to a recession that has forced many families to scour their budgets for savings. People who live in homes that have only wireless service tend to be disproportionately low-income, young, renters and Hispanics.

"We do expect that with the recession, we'd see an increase in the prevalence of wireless only households, above what we might have expected had there been no recession," Blumberg said.

Six in 10 households have both landlines and cell phones. Even so, industry analysts emphasized the public's growing love affair with the versatility of cell phones, which can perform functions like receiving text messages and are also mobile. ■

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