

Edsel Godwin Sotiangco

The Golden Boy with the Golden

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 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



AJPress photo by Andy Tecson



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.



Photo requirement guidelines for new MRP

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well because they can refer these applicants to photo studios nearby.

MRPs are the new travel document issued by the Philippine government as prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The ICAO is an agency of the United Nations that fosters the planning and development of air transport. It has required all its member states, including the Philippines, to issue MRPs before April 1st 2010.

The maroon-colored travel document is tamper-proof and is expected to make traveling faster and more convenient.

While unexpired green Philippine passports may still be used after April 2010, most countries will require travelers to hold an MRP for their travel. Green passport-holders may be asked to form a separate line for their information to be encoded, making the process slower.

The new maroon-colored MRP has a "machine readable zone" containing the personal data of the passport holder that can be read by a machine or computer.

"This eases entry because the immigration officer no longer needs to encode the information manually. This eases exiting (a country) for the same reason," Vice Consul General Maningat said.

The MRP's superior security features compared to the green passports is also expected to eliminate the possibility of identity theft and acts of fraud.

The Philippine government has started issuing MRPs last year. Filipinos residing in the United States need to apply in person at the consular office that is nearest their place of residence.

Philippine consular offices in the United States hold monthly or bi-monthly consular outreach programs that make passport application more convenient since applicants not have to travel far to apply for passports.

PCG New York will hold outreach programs in Massachusetts on May 9 and in Rochester, New York on May 16. This consular office has jurisdiction over Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

PCG LA, which covers Southern Nevada, Southern California, Texas and Arizona, will hold consular outreach programs in Panorama City, California on May 16th and in Las Vegas, NV on May 23rd and 24th.

Complete schedule of the consular outreach programs of these two offices, as well as other Philippine consulates, can be seen in their respective websites. (*Dymphna Calica-La Putt*)

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CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2:00pm to 6:00pm Open Stage, Madison Avenue, North of 23rd Street Dr. Bernie dela Merced (Chair) (973)699-1849 Vivian Velasco (Co-Chair) (917)623-3827	FLAG RAISING CEREMONY / THANKSGIVING MASS 8:00am to 10:00am Philippine Center 556 Fifth Avenue, between 45th and 46th Streets

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