

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

HISTORIAN SAYS

Martin Nievera sang 'Lupang Hinirang' wrong

by JEROME ANING
Inquirer.net

MANILA - The National Historical Institute (NHI) criticized on Sunday singer Martin Nievera's rendition of the Philippine National Anthem at the beginning of the Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton bout in Las Vegas earlier Sunday.

In a text message, NHI chairman Ambeth Ocampo expressed dissatisfaction with the latest rendition and added that the flashing of the agency's seal was "without our permission."

Ocampo, who was on a provincial trip on Sunday, said he did not see Nievera's rendition. But he learned from those who watched the bout that the anthem, officially titled *Lupang Hinirang*, was sung with a martial tone but had a slow opening and closing.

Nievera sang the first stanza softly and slowly; he sang the last line with prolonged, high notes.

"Despite repeated reminders, some artists continue to make adjustments to the anthem, which is not an ordinary piece of music open to free interpretation," Ocampo said.

Section 37 of the Republic Act No. 8491, also known as the 1998 Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, provides that "the rendition of the National Anthem, whether played or sung, shall be in accordance with the musical arrangement and composition of Julian Felipe."

Felipe composed in 1898 the anthem's music, which has the tune of a march. It was played during the proclamation of the country's independence from Spain at Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898.

The current Tagalog lyrics were adapted from the Spanish poem *Filipinas* written by Jose Palma in 1899. ■



Charice reveals her real inspiration

by THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net

MANILA — At the age of 17, singer Charice Pempengco conquered the world, receiving standing ovations in concerts abroad as she shared the stage with music icons.

Some may attribute her success to a YouTube clip uploaded by a fan that eventually led to her guestings in popular US television shows *Ellen* and *Oprah*. But for Charice, credits should go to her mother Raquel.

"Super po akong humahanga sa kaniya," said Charice, noting that although her mom was a single parent, she was able to send her and his brother to school.

For this, Charice lovingly dedicated her newly released second album entitled *My Inspiration* to her mom, in time for the upcoming Mother's Day.

"For Mommy po ang lahat ng ito. At pati na rin po sa lahat ng mummies sa buong mundo, lahat ng mummies na naghihirap para sa anak," Charice told the entertainment press at the launch of her new album, which features 12 revivals including *Wind Beneath My Wings* and the mother-daughter duet *You and Me Against the World*.

The album, only produced and recorded in one month, also includes a minus-one compact disc.

In her album, Charice thanked famous host Oprah Winfrey whom she calls "Mommy Oprah" and popular musician "Daddy David Foster," her international mentor.

Charice said she personally picked some of the songs that would describe her relationship with her mom. In her next projects, Charice intends to include some of her compositions, also inspired by her mother.

But Charice is not yet ready for another "inspiration." She'd rather focus on her career unless the right one comes. If that happens, Charice hopes she need not choose between love and career.

"Kahit anong lahi basta't mamahalin niya ako, na kahit mawala ako sa showbiz mamahalin niya pa rin ako," said Charice.

But for now, Charice is set to do more shows abroad and to record her international album. Her voice will be included at the *Alvin and the Chipmunks* to be shown on December.

Charice, still euphoric about her success, said she is still surprised that people always ask for an autograph or a photo with her.

She also takes pride in having bought some properties from her earning.

Now Charice owns a seven-door apartment, a house in Royal Estate in Tagaytay, and a white Ford Expedition.

"I still want to do a lot of things. I want to be a lawyer...I also want to be called a singer-songwriter," said Charice. ■



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Vilma Santos in NYC

NEW YORK CITY — The Star for All Seasons and the esteemed Governor of Batangas Province, Vilma Santos-Recto, is currently in town for the shooting of her latest film *A Mother's Story*.



(L-R) Asian American Heritage Council Chairwoman Ludi Hughes, John Lloyd Cruz, Luis Manzano, the Honorable Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto, the Honorable Mayor Jerramiah Healy, Mila Mendez and Movie Director Olivia Lamasan.

Vilma stars for the first time with her own son, Luis Manzano, and John Lloyd Cruz, both very popular artists of ABS-CBN. The movie, directed by Miss Olivia Lamasan, a seasoned director in the Philippine movie industry, is being shot in many locations in the tri-state area. One of the locations for the shooting was the Liberty Island, where Miss Liberty Statue stands proudly welcoming all visitors to NYC. Mayor Jerramiah Healy, the very amiable Mayor of Jersey City which has jurisdiction over Liberty Island, took some precious time to welcome Miss Vilma Santos, John Lloyd Cruz and Luis Manzano to Jersey City. Mayor Healy was accompanied by two active Filipino American community leaders in the region, Ms. Ludi Hughes, Chairwoman

of the Asian American Heritage Council of New Jersey as well as an officer of the Filipino American Political Action Group and Ms. Mila Mendez, Executive Vice President of Special Edition Press, Inc., producer of Philippine Fiesta In America.

It was a happy reunion for Mayor Healy and Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto, who were introduced to each other for the first time during the 2005 Philippine Fiesta Gala at the Sheraton Hotel in Newark, NJ. Then-Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto of Lipa, Batangas and husband, Philippine Senator Ralph Recto were special guests at the Philippine Fiesta. Mayor Healy was invited to deliver a special message that night and gave the seasoned and multi-awarded movie actress the key to Jersey City, NJ. ■