

by **CYNTHIA DE CASTRO**
AJPress

Rocio Marron - Violin

Rocio Marron is a native of Southern California and started playing the violin at age 9. She attended the Colburn School for Performing Arts while in high school, and later went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California School of Music in 1997.

Rocio has toured and recorded with singers Marc Anthony, Joan Sebastian and the East Los Angeles-based Quetzal. In addition, she has recorded with acts such as The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pedro Fernandez, R-15, Tigres Del Norte, Lorenzo Antonio, Grammy nominated Caravana Cubana, and the Grammy winning Mariachi Divas. Rocio has also performed with Josh Grobin, Cuban bass legend Cachao, Los Lobos and Los Trio.

Rocio has recorded for several major motion pictures and has appeared on television programs such as *The Young and the Restless*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Mad TV*, *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, and *The Tonight Show*. She performed on stage at the American Music Awards, Radio Music Awards, and the Grammy's.

She currently performs with several bands in Los Angeles including Ellas Son, and Dakah hip-hop Orchestra. In addition to her many talents as a musician, Rocio arranges and composes original music for various bands she performs with. She also teaches violin and guitar as a faculty member of the Silverlake Conservatory of Music.

Therese Marie De Guzman - De Mesa - Violin II

Therese was born in Cotabato City but was raised in Cuenca, Batangas. She showed her passion in music at her early age when she competed for NAMCYA for Rondalla Category. She finished her Bachelor of Music in Voice under the supervision of Mrs. Gloria Coronel in University of Santo Tomas, the oldest University in Asia. In her college years, she joined the UST Symphony Orchestra and enjoyed performing with them in the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Paco Park Presents and in some parts of the country for outreach concerts and numerous summer camps.

Playing violin has always been her passion. Even outside UST, she joined different church ensembles. From 2000-2005, Therese was part of the group called UST Singer, the official choir of the University who garnered the title of *Choir of the World* for the competition in Wales, UK. She had the honor of singing before the Pope John Paul II, Luciano Pavarotti, King of Spain, several President of the Philippines and most especially to our kababay-

ans in different countries. She is singing as a soprano and toured all over Europe, United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of Asia for concert, competitions and festivals. Now, she is an active member of the UST Alumni Singers who is based in the US and one of the pioneer members of FASO as well.

Vincent Reyes - Guitar

Vincent Reyes began playing professionally with jazz trumpeter and arranger Billy May at the age of 15. Since then, he has played in several bands and ensembles including productions of *Applause* and more recently *Pippin* with East West Players. He studied music composition under Ruth Schonthal and Mark Antonio Consoli at NYU and has acted as Musical Director for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Free to Be You and Me*, in addition to writing music and lyrics for the musical *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. He is currently composing for classical guitar and has provided music for the cartoon *Critter Island*, films *Graffiti of the Mind*, *Brown Soup Thing*, and an upcoming documentary on musician Eliot Smith.

Katie Boyle - Viola

Katie Boyle has been playing stringed instruments since the age of 8. She studied with Manuel Compinsky, and majored in music at CSUN. She traveled to and performed in Europe, accompanying the CSUN Chamber Singers. She has performed in many local symphony orchestras, and is a member of a professional string quartet. Katie studied with Paul Stein (of the Los Angeles Philharmonic), and Christine Frank - of the Anacapa String Quartet.

Leonid Belinsky - Oboe

Leonid Belinsky began his musical training at an early age in his native Russia. He graduated from the Conservatory of Music in Lvov and pursued postgraduate studies in Moscow. Leonid won a number of competitions in his country. He has served as Principal Oboist in Odessa, Lvov Opera House and Philharmonic Orchestras. Leonid also had the unique opportunity to participate in the production of the ballet "Spartacus" under composer Aram Khachaturian. He played with violinist Gidon Kramer in J.S. Bach double concerto.

Leonid Belinsky was associate professor at the Vladivostok Institute of Music & Arts.

In 1975, Belinsky arrived in the United States. Leonid played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood-Wilshire Symphony, West-

Continued on Page 10

FASO Gala Concert features celebrated singers

From Page 6

of Music in Music Education, major in Voice from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in the Philippines under the tutelage of Irma Ponce-Enrile Potenciano and Lemuel Dela Cruz, Avendaño started to exhibit exemplary singing at an early age. At the age of 11, he became a member of the Tiples de Santo Domingo (oldest boy's choir in the Philippines) where he was a boy soprano-soloist.

In college, Avendaño became part of the internationally-acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers and has toured extensively with the group during its 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 international concert tours in Europe, North America, and South America. In 2000, he was a finalist in the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He was also a prize winner in the Kundiman Fiesta competition in 1994. As a student of the UST Conservatory, Avendaño auditioned and became part of the Singapore Lyric Opera productions of *Il Pagliacci*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Macbeth* held in Singapore.

Last year, Avendaño portrayed the lead role Karim in the Filipino Opera *Karim at Jasmin* held at the La Mirada Theater in Los Angeles. He also performed in a concert at St. Louis Missouri for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga. As one of the founding members of the UST Singers Alumni in America and the Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles, this seasoned tenor is currently a faculty at the Our Lady of Loretto Elementary School in Los Angeles where he also handles the children's choir. He was instrumental in having the children's choir nominated for the Music Achievement Awards in Arts 2006 by the Music Center Bravo Awards.

Avendaño is presently the music director of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Los Angeles. He has recently finished his recording project - a collection of Philippine Art Songs dubbed as *Kundiman*. With all these accom-

plished singers and the majestic Filipino American Symphony Orchestra playing for the first time, May 17 truly promises to be a night to remember.

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