

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



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.



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



AJPress Photos by Andy Tecson

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 11-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 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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