

GETTING TO KNOW FASO

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
AJPress

Julia Ataat



Andy Tecson

Andy M. Tecson - Violinist

Andy Tecson is a man with many talents. Aside from singing as tenor with the Philippines Concert Choir, he also plays the violin, guitar and mandolin. Tecson has likewise built a reputation for himself as a professional photographer, a financial planner, an insurance consultant, and an accountant. An active community leader, Andy has been actively involved in the association of FilAms from his hometown in Nueva Ecija, having served as the past president of Cabiao USA.

Having studied violin at an early age, Andy was already an accomplished violinist when he entered the University of the East (UE) to take up Business Administration, major in Accounting. While in UE, he played second violin in the UE Symphony Orchestra.

In 1972, Andy immigrated to the US. In LA, he became a successful financial and insurance consultant, several times awarded as Agent of the Year by the Sotiangco Insurance Agency. He has also qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table for 15 years and has thus been considered a Lifetime Member of the prestigious circle.

Andy eventually married another musician, Elizabeth Fortun, a graduate of Music from UST and a piano and music teacher. They had four children: Cecile, a visual effects film artist; Armando, also a photographer like his dad; Samuel, film sound engineer; and Joseph, multi-media artist.

Aside from his success in the insurance business, Andy has also excelled in the field of photography. His training started with his father, Lauro Tecson, who was an accomplished artist and protégé of Philippine National Artists, Fernando Amorsolo; besides being a portrait painter and photographer. Andy is a member of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) and Wedding Photographers International. He is also the founder and past president of the Filipino-American Photographers' Club-Los Angeles "Salamin", and the chief photographer of Asian Journal Publications. His photographs have been featured in the covers of magazines and newspapers like the People Asia and Inside Wedding magazines. Andy has been awarded by Reflections as Photographer of the Year and he did the wedding album of Lea Salonga and other celebrities.

Andy's love for music has developed through the years. He has been a guest violinist at the annual dinner program of the Philippine Consulate during Independence Day celebrations. He is also a part of the Music Ministry in St. Brendan Catholic Church in LA, playing his violin and mandolin during Wednesday novenas and the annual Simbang Gabi. Likewise, he plays during community and social gatherings of family and friends, like birthdays and weddings.

As a founding member of FASO, Andy is proud to have been a part of history in the making. "I am so excited to be a part of the orchestra. Whenever the FASO plays during rehearsals, it never fails to move me since I have truly seen a dream turn into reality right before my eyes. This is why I am looking forward to a successful gala concert on May 17," said Andy.

Gina Gutierrez - Violin

Gina Gutierrez was born in Carson, California on August 13 1988, to Leticia and

Feliciano Gutierrez who are both from the Philippines. She has an elder sister, Mary.

Gina started playing the violin at the age of nine. She studied with Dorothy Douty, Angela Amin, Dr. William Doyle and Chika Emori. She went to Carson High School and the Los Angeles Music Conservatory, playing the violin, piano and the guitar. She won music scholarships from Nissan and Toyota. Currently a junior at the University of California, Irvine, Gina is majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

A violinist at the St. Philomena Church choir in Carson for the past seven years, Gina has also played with the El Camino South Bay Youth Orchestra for 7 years with Dr. William Doyle. She has played with the El Camino Chamber Orchestra for four years and has traveled with them to Europe to perform in Slovenia and Italy. She has also performed with Hawaiian musical artists such as Keali'i Rachel and Jake Shimabukuro.

Gina enjoys playing the violin for weddings, parties, anniversaries and any other social gatherings.

Julia Marie Denise Clemente Ataat**- Violin**

Born in the Philippines in 1992, 17-yr old Julia Marie immigrated to the US in 2002. She attends Mayfair High School in Lakewood. Her parents are both musically inclined with her mother, Doris, playing the piano and father, Joe Clemente, playing the organ. Her two brothers also play musical instruments; 19-yr old Jose Carlo plays the cello and 15-yr old John Benedict plays the viola. With everyone in her family able to play instruments, Julia Marie began playing the violin in her 8th grade. Admitting to having a passion for music, Julia said her being a member of FASO "challenges me in my music".

Roth Emmanuel Ramos-1st Violin

Roth Emmanuel Ramos was born in Pasay City, Philippines sixteen years ago. Now residing in Glendale, California, he is in 11th grade at the Glendale High School. He has been in the Symphonic Orchestra for 5 years, playing 1st violin. He also joined the GHS Marching Band, playing flute & saxophone. He was 13 years old when he started to lead an instrumental ensemble of the Adventist Youth Church - the Praiseconnection team.

Roth's dream is to become a nurse.

Stephen Kevin Ramos- Clarinet

Fourteen-year-old Stephen Kevin Ramos was born in Pasay City, Philippines but is now residing in Glendale, California. A 9th grader at Glendale High School, Stephen has been in the Symphonic Orchestra for 3 years, playing 2nd violin. He is also a member of the GHS Marching Band, playing clarinet, and the Adventist youth church Praiseconnection team. His dream is to become a Genetic Engineer. ☐



Gina Gutierrez

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DOLLYWOOD

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
Inquirer.netPops after the
Jomari episode

POPS Fernandez and I were both in a senti mood. I asked her, 'How's your heart after the Jomari episode?' She sighed. "I'm still recovering."

To lighten the mood, I shot back, "We should just have fun with all the wrong

ones until the right one comes along."

Pipay countered, "With all I've been through, *parang afraid na ko* even just to have fun (laughs). I don't even wanna think about falling again. There must be a prince out there for us."

I told her in jest, "Maybe their carriages just got stuck

in traffic!"

Pipay replied, "Then we should just keep waiting. For now, I'll just keep working hard."

Go, girl! And let's play

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