

# Book on Kapampangan folk songs to be launched

## Book launching is part of National Heritage Month

AGEL UNIVERSITY for Kapampangan Studies has teamed up with the City of San Fernando's office in hosting a Pampanga celebration of Filipino Heritage on May 16.

The celebration will highlight the rich musical heritage of Pampanga, in keeping with the theme of the event. The book "A Treasury of Traditional Kapampangan Folk Songs" published by the Kapampangan Studies Center during the month while the Artista performs other performing

groups will showcase Kapampangan songs and dances.

The festival is sponsored by the Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. (FHF) in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The event will be held in the Henson-Hizon heritage house, where the Nicolasa Dayrit shrine is located, according to Ching Panglinan, senior tourism officer of the City of San Fernando.

The book is a compilation of lyrics and music notations of over 100 traditional Kapampangan songs collected from all over Pampanga.

"Our staff crossed rivers and

farmlands in the farthest barrios of Pampanga to interview the common folk and record their actual singing," Robby Tandingan, Director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies, said. "We made them sing songs they haven't sung for decades, from *kantang ukhu* to *tumaila to gusu* and *balcuta, polosa* and *kundiman*."

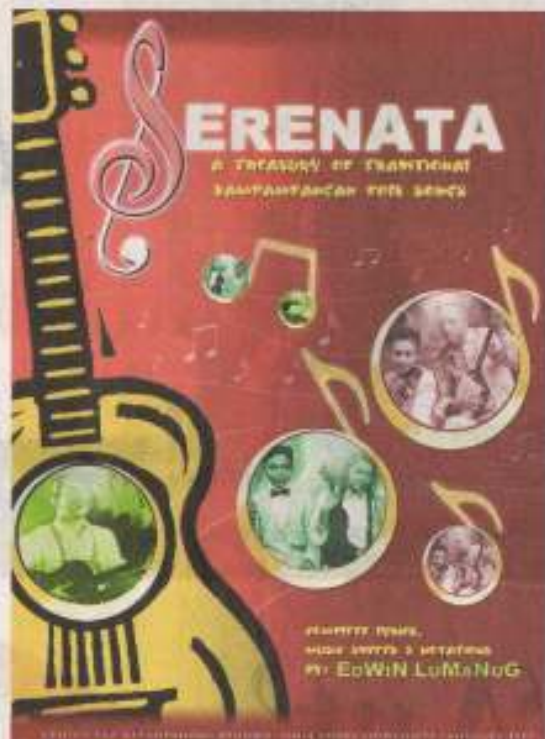
Edwin Lumanag, a graduate of the UP Conservatory of Music, did the notation of the songs on both hard and soft copies. A minus-one CD of all the songs is contained in the book.

"This will enable schools, parishes, organizations and individuals to learn old Kapampangan songs faster," Tandingan

said. "This is one way of ensuring that future generations never forget their musical heritage."

"The publication of this collection of Kapampangan songs is a highly significant cultural event," wrote Prof. Felipe de Leon Jr., head of the NCCA Subcommission for the Arts. "The artistic and creative qualities of these songs cannot but enhance Kapampangan creative pride and achievement, for anything positive about themselves always unites and empowers a people."

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