

Madrigal Singers to perform at new HAU Chapel

■ JIMMY HIPOLITO, PHOTOGRAPHER

ANGELES CITY --- The world-famous Philippine Madrigal Singers, this year's designated UNESCO Artists for Peace, will perform in a free concert at the new Chapel of the Holy Guardian Angel, Holy Angel University, on December 9 at 6:00 pm.

The concert is part of the celebration marking the dedication of the new chapel earlier on the same day by the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Joseph Edward Adams, D.D. and the Archbishop of San Fernando, Most Rev. Paciano B. Aniceto, D.D.

The 800-seater chapel, designed in the shape of an angel, has been acoustically treated to ensure "the Word of God is heard clearly by everyone inside," says University president Dr. Arlyn S. Villanueva.

The concert by the country's premiere singing group is expected to further showcase the chapel's acoustic capabilities.

The Madz, as the group is known, has given command performances to royalty and heads of state, including Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, Presidents Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon, Queen Sofia of Spain, King Juan Carlos de Bourbon and Prime

Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

In 1997, the Madz won the world's most prestigious choral singing contest, the European Choral Grand Prix held in Tours, France, besting the five other grand-prize winners in the biggest choral competitions in Europe: Arezzo in Italy, Debrecen in Hungary, Varna in Bulgaria, Gorizia in Italy and Tolosa in Spain.

The Madz displayed a virtuoso performance that was so moving that one juror described it as "the most beautiful sound on earth."

In 2007, the Madz won the Grand Prize in the European Grand Prix in Choral Singing in Arezzo, Italy, making it the first choir in the competition's history to win it twice and the only Asian choir to do so.

The Madz performs a variety of styles and forms but it specializes in the "madrigal," a polyphonic musical style popular during the Renaissance Period where singers and listeners gathered around the table during a banquet to make music together.

Interested parties may get their free tickets at the Center for Kapampangan Studies, Holy Angel University, Angeles City, or contact Myra at (045) 888-8691 local 1312, or text at 0920 425 8711.



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