

Young talents unite in 1st Asia-Europe Music Camp



■ Spanish Robert Oliveira and Korean Kim Ye-Jin perform in "I'mPULSE" 1st Asia-Europe Music Camp's first day
PHOTO FROM THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

BY LYNDA C. CORPUZ

THEY are from both sides of the globe. But for eight days, they will be one in music.

It is the first time for 24-year-old soloist Kim Ye-jin to travel alone and be in the Philippines. Italian Fausto Corneo, a 29-year-old clarinetist and a professor in Rotterdam Conservatory in Lisbon, Portugal, will also spend a week here. Twenty-six-year-old Composition major Nilo Alcalá II has toured abroad as tenor of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, and like Kim and Fausto, he looks forward to a new experience in "I'mPULSE: The 1st Asia-Europe Music Camp."

Make music together

The idea is noble: To gather youthful musicians of Asia and Europe. Logistics is complicated: Despite correspondences sent to major music colleges, conservatories and universities in the two regions, only 18 made it to the music camp, an activity of the Asia

Europe Foundation's cultural exchange program.

Chulamane Chartswan, ASEF director welcomed the participants, adding that the choice of the Philippines as host of "I'mPULSE" is a right one, what with the country's arts and culture heritage and Filipinos' interest in music.

"I'mPULSE," which started on February 2 at the National Arts Center, Makiling, Laguna, is part of the National Arts Month celebration. It will culminate in a concert and live recording tomorrow, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines's Little Theater.

Dr. Robert Casteels, "I'mPULSE's" artistic director and a conductor/composer, explained that "I'mPULSE" refers to the individuals wanting to exchange ideas, meet fellow music students and young professionals and to make friends with different nationalities.

On "I'mPULSE's" first day, participants performed short pieces. With

Spanish percussionist Robert Oliveira, Kim struck the silk chords of her *haegum*, (traditional Korean instrument), and produced music that blended well with nature's sounds that filled the chilly afternoon atop Mount Makiling.

Students from the Philippine High School for the Arts presented various *rondalla* and ethnic pieces. Pattara Komkhum played Thailand's *pinai* wind instrument while Irish Sile Denvir performed "Honey Bee," with her Irish harp.

Lesson in tolerance

CCP president Nestor Jardin said "I'mPULSE's" aim was not to require them to come up with grand compositions for the camp's run, but to allow them to interact well and learn more about each other's music instruments.

Casteels, with "I'mPULSE" associate artistic director Prof. Chino Toledo of the University of the Philippines' College of Music, hoped the participants from Belgium, China, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain and Thailand learned more than just to make music.

"What 'I'mPULSE' aims is for them to bond well and understand one another," Casteels stressed.

From workshops to various activities and night-outs scheduled, tomorrow's concert will be a grand finale for "I'mPULSE" delegates as they will premiere original works: "Shades of Opera II" by Chinese Shen Ye, "Dancing Delusions" by Alcalá, "Icore" by Portuguese Gonçalo Lourenço, "En route" by Singaporean Americ Goh, and "Binalig," "Panangpit" and "Holdoyon Kuy Diwata" by distinguished Filipino composer Bob Aves.

"I'mPULSE" delegates Kim, Fausto and Nilo hope they contribute well to the music camp's success.

Kim wishes to keep in touch with fellow delegates, master her *haegum* well and learn English better as she will fly soon to the United Kingdom's Royal Academy of Music for further studies.

Fausto, who teaches contemporary jazz and free improvisation, hopes to learn new lessons and gain experiences to share with his students back in Lisbon. Nilo is learning to play the piano and wishes to learn playing other musical instruments in preparation for a major orchestral piece.

The 2nd Asia-Europe Music Camp is slated in Ireland in November 2005.

For tickets to tomorrow's *I'mPulse* concert, call the CCP Marketing Department at 832-1125 local 1800 to 1806.