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Int'l music camp culminates in Cultural Center concert

Young artists from Asia and Europe will gather tonight at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) for a unique concert that is the product of an equally unique music camp.

I'mPULSE, the first Asia Europe Music Camp, brought together 14 instrumentalists and four composers to the National Arts Center in Mount Makiling for a week-long series of lectures, workshops, and jamming sessions. The culminating concert at 7:30 tonight will showcase the musical collaboration among the participants of the Music Camp, which will also be recorded.

The concert will premiere original compositions by composer-delegates: *Shades of Opera II* by Shen Ye of China, *Dancing Delusions* by Nilo Alcalá of the Philippines, *ICore* by Goncalo Lourenco of Portugal, and *En route* by Americ Goh of Singapore. Also in the program are three commissioned works by locally renowned musician Bob Aves: "Binalig," "Panangpit," and "Holdoyon Kuy Diwata."

During the opening day of the camp, CCP President Nestor Jardin spoke before the delegates, guests, and media, calling the music camp "a noble project because Asian and European artists haven't had enough chance to interact." He added that the many commonalities in musical traditions between Asia and Europe can result in an exceptional "people-to-people and artist-to-artist exchange."

I'mPULSE was organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (Asef) and the CCP. Founded in 1997 by members of the Asia-Europe Meeting, Asef aims to promote better understanding between the people of Asia and Europe in the areas of intellectual, cultural, people-to-people exchanges and public affairs.

The music camp is one such initiative to "promote social and cultural exchange on a people-to-people level between Asia and Europe," said Chulamane Chartswan, director of the cultural exchange division of Asef.

She added that the Philippines is "the best place for this project" because the country has an impressive

musical tradition, producing Filipino performers recognized worldwide for their talent.

The music camp was facilitated by professional conductors and musicians led by artistic director Robert Casteels, a Singapore-based prizewinning Belgian composer and conductor. Renowned Filipino composer Josefino "Chino" Toledo was the camp's associate artistic director. Rahayu Suppangah of Sekolah Tinggi Semi Indonesia was the camp's gamelan expert while CCP's Aga Mayo Botocan was the resource person for the Kulintang.

Each participating country fielded a delegate according to the requirements of the camp. Mr. Casteels said that they made sure that there is a balance of instruments when they formed the team.

Apart from this, they made sure that the delegates would be, more or less, on the same level in terms of musical capability and knowledge. The delegates are young musicians, most of whom just graduated from school and are semi-professional.

Mr. Casteels expects the outcome of the music camp to be twofold. First, he hopes that through this project the young composers "explore new territories."

"Nothing replaces meeting with the players, immediately having your piece performed," he explained. "We have opened the window. We have widened the horizon." For the players on the other hand, he hopes that the camp will "enrich their knowledge and enrich their playing." Ultimately, he hopes that the camp will foster enduring connections among the artists. "Getting people from different parts of the world to learn about each other, to reflect about each other's culture [teaches them] value of tolerance," remarked Mr. Casteels.

I'mPULSE is also held in celebration of the National Arts Month. Proceeds from the concert will go to CCP's fund drive for the typhoon victims in Quezon, an ongoing project that includes rehabilitation, art therapy, and livelihood program. Tickets are priced at P400 with 50% discount for students and 20% for senior citizens. For inquiries, call CCP marketing at 832-1125 locals 1800 to 1806. —JLC