

THE MAFFAA JOURNAL

Mid Atlantic
MAFFAA
Foundation for Asian Artists

July 2015

Greetings & Happy Summer MAFFAA Supporters!



What a month it has been for MAFFAA! From celebrating the **117th anniversary of Philippine Independence** on streets of Manhattan, to officially launching our next major production, **Spoliarium, The Opera** at the Philippine Consulate in New York with Ambassador Mario Lopez de Leon, Jr. and community leaders from the **Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc. (FFAI)**, to witnessing the grandeur of piña fabrics and textiles courtesy of Philippine fashion icon Patis Tesoro as presented by the **Embassy of the Philippines** and the **US-Philippines Society**, and finally receiving recognition for MAFFAA's continued dedication in the arts at the Migrant Heritage Commission's annual People's Ball.

Indeed, this summer has been off to a great start!

All of this has been possible because of supporters such as yourself. Every opportunity presented to MAFFAA to date has allowed the organization to continue to grow and thrive. MAFFAA is dedicated to carrying out the same missions it set forth since its inception, which has been acquiring, preserving, and presenting Asian works of art and culture.

Thus, we cordially welcome to you consider joining us this fall at the prestigious **BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City from October 1 - 3, 2015** as we present the story of the **world class Filipino painter, Juan Luna** and the pivotal role he played in days leading to the start of the Philippine Revolution. Several community leaders from Washington, DC and the neighboring Mid-Atlantic states have already expressed interest in this groundbreaking presentation. Furthermore, **multiple working committees have begun to emerge** to assist in making this production a true masterpiece.

With this, **I personally extend this invitation to each and every single one of you.** I challenge you to once again bring forth your talents and expertise to table, as so many of you did so last summer through the production and presentation of **Noli Me Tangere, The Opera**. Let us once again take pride in our history and culture! Let us once again give the masses the caliber this organization has been commended for in the arts!

Respectfully,
Patrick Realiza

SPOLIARIUM, THE OPERA: OCTOBER 1 - 3, 2015
BMCC TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER NEW YORK, NY



Juan Luna, a distinguished world class Filipino painter brought honors to the Filipino people through his acclaimed international masterpieces. Among his most notable achievements was the acquisition of the gold medal in the Exposición de Bellas Artes (Madrid Art Exposition) for his painting, the *Spoliarium* in 1884. This oil-on-canvas painting features a glimpse of Roman history centered on the bloody carnage in the wake of the gladiatorial matches and is currently the largest painting in the Philippines.

Spoliarium, The Opera is based on the true story of Mr. Luna's ill-fated marriage and his famous painting. Dubbed as *the first Filipino opera written in the English language*, *Spoliarium* is a three-act neo-romantic opera that is guaranteed to give all audiences a unique musical experience.

Originally conceived by **Fides Cuyugan-Asensio**, one of the Philippines' foremost opera singers and with music by **Ryan Cayabyab**, the opera will transport audiences back to Paris, France to the days preceding *the Philippine Revolution*, where figures such as José Rizal, Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Félix Hidalgo, and Antonio and Juan Luna were synonymous with the movement for Philippine sovereignty.

MAFFAA cordially invites you to witness this groundbreaking presentation in New York City.

FOR TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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NEW MEMBER JOINS MAFFAA'S EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!
ANNA ETSUKO TSURI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Anna Etsuko Tsuru is an opera director and lighting designer, who has directed several opera productions including, “Noli Me Tangere,” “Cenerentola,” “La Finta Giardiniera,” “Le Nozée di Figaro,” “Hansel and Gretel,” “Erwartung,” “The Dwarf,” “Song Books,” in Germany, Austria, Latvia, the United States and Japan.

Anna also has been accredited with over 80 productions at opera houses including the Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, Komische Opera Berlin, Bayreuth Festival for Young Artists, Le Théâtre du Soleil, Bregenz Festival, Dortmund Opera House, Opera Nomori Tokyo, The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and the New National Theatre in Tokyo.

www.maffaa.org

Click on the link above to learn more about MAFFAA's Newest Board Member.

Community Spotlight: **MAFFAA's Presence and Participation (June 2015)**



(Left to Right): **Philippine Independence Day Parade in New York** (June 7)
Planning Meeting with American University Students Post-Parade (June 7)



(Left to Right): **Courtesy Call with Ambassador Mario Lopez de Leon, Jr.** (June 8)
Spoliarium Press Conference at Philippine Consulate in New York (June 8)



(Left to Right): Patis Tesoro Fashion Show at Ronald Reagan Building (June 11)

Courtesy Call with Filipino Exchange Students and Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. (June 19)



(Left to Right): Migrant Heritage Commission People's Ball (June 27)

Informal Jazz Outting with Japanese Minister Mr. Masato Otaka (June 29)

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