

# THE MAFFAA JOURNAL

Mid Atlantic  
**MAFFAA**  
Foundation for Asian Artists

May 2015

## Greetings MAFFAA Supporters!

On behalf of the Executive Board of Directors, I am pleased to introduce to you the very first edition of our monthly newsletter, "*The MAFFAA Journal.*"

This newsletter seeks to continue our shared common interest in the arts, most specifically in enriching the lives of the Asian and Asian-American artists in the United States.

We are grateful for your support of our first major production, Noli Me Tangere, the Opera last summer.

Enclosed below are the details to our next major production, which will debut at the prestigious Tribeca Performing Arts Center on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

It is our sincere hope that you will continue to join us in the acquisition, preservation, and presentation of Asian works of art and culture through MAFFAA.

Respectfully,  
Patrick Realiza  
Public Relations Director, MAFFAA



**MAFFAA Executive Board of Directors (L to R):**  
**Patrick Realiza** (Public Relations Director)  
**Dr. Lorna Imperial Seidel** (Exec. Director)  
**Matthew Aninzo** (Exec. Secretary/Treasurer)

## "Noli Me Tangere," The Musical East Coast Tour

Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM

The [Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc.](#) (FFAI) and the [Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc.](#) (MAFFAA) is pleased to announce the production of "Noli Me Tangere," The Musical in New York City.

**Saturday, October 3, 2015 - 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM**  
**Tribeca Performing Arts Center (TPAC)**  
**199 Chambers Street**  
**New York, NY 10007**



**Background:** This production of Noli Me Tangere will seek to re-tell the story of this key time in history in a unique light, culminating at the TPAC to pay tribute and give new life to the rich cultural legacy of Philippine music and arts. Beginning with the four stars of Mr. Ryan Cayabyab's excellent musical score, that will thread the hopes and woes of doomed love in an era of slavery, Mr. Cayabyab, a true master, continues to

hone his music and audiences alike.

**MAFFAA cordially invites you to witness the re-staging of this world-class musical**, originally performed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The musical has swept audiences worldwide, and now we MAFFAA in collaboration with FFAI will bring it to the one and only...New York City!

**Music for this production is by Ryan Cabyabyab, with the libretto courtesy of Philippine National Artist for Literature, Bienvenido Lumbera.** The world premiere was directed by Nonon Padilla, founding artistic director of Tanghalang Pilipino (1995) at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

## **Teatro Pilipino USA Performances**

**Teatro Pilipino USA** will stage a two-night only performance of this musical with English supertitles. **Featured stars include:** *Miguel Vera, John Arcilla, Kit Navarro, Joji Isla, Annie Nepomuceno, Sweet Samaniego Buchanan and many more.*



**Crisostomo Ibarra**, the main protagonist will be played by **Miguel Vera**. Mr. Vera will bring his rich timbre all the way from Los Angeles, California. His West Coast performance in August 2014, was very much heartfelt among audiences. Indeed, this production is very fortunate and grateful to have his presence included.

## **Exclusive Pre-Show Gala - Thursday, October 1, 2015**

*Both shows will be preceded with an exclusive dinner gala on Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 PM at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, where **an excerpt of the musical will be performed in honor of Mr. Ryan Cayabyab and Mr. Nonon Padilla.***

Formal Evening and/or Barong Tagalog (Gentlemen) and Filipiniana (Ladies)

**For more information, please contact MAFFAA's Public Relations Director, Patrick Realiza, at (202) 735-4301 or via email at [patrick.realiza@outlook.com](mailto:patrick.realiza@outlook.com).**

## **Lifestyle and Culture: Living Memory in Noli Me Tangere, The Musical**

**"Filipino opera gets its Washington premiere at the Kennedy Center,"  
The Washington Post | Sunday, August 10, 2014 | Grace Jean**

A Filipino opera billed as the first such work composed in Western style received its Washington premiere Friday evening at the Kennedy Center with a cast that performed proudly and conveyed a love for libretto and music.

Composed in 1953 by Felipe P. De Leon, "Noli Me Tangere (Touch Me Not)" is based on Jose Rizal's 19th-century novel of the same name. Written in three acts, the libretto - sung in the Filipino language Tagalog - tells the story of two star-crossed lovers during the sociopolitical unrest of colonial Philippines.

Directed by Anna Etsuko Tsuru and presented by the Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, the production of "Noli" unfolded as an elegant affair in the Eisenhower Theater. Despite several awkward scenery-change pauses, ***the opera overall flowed with passages reminiscent of Mozart, Rossini, Puccini and Wagner under conductor Benjamin Dia's baton.***

Playing the hero, **Crisostomo Ibarra, Sal Malaki** and his golden tenor anchored the opera, and his expressive singing sent it soaring. As his faithful betrothed, **Maria Clara, soprano Brittany Palmer** performed with vocal subtlety and fragile stage presence befitting a tragic heroine.

**Baritone Roberto Perlas Gomez's Elias** embodied bravery and righteousness, while Antoni Mendezona turned in a captivating performance as Sisa, the mother of two boys, Basilio (sung by the talented Elijah Sirilan) and Crispin (Zion Sirilan), who disappear, prompting her derangement. Mendezona's coloratura dazzled and pulled heartstrings during her lament in the woods.

Rounding out the fine cast, **baritone John-Andrew Fernandez** was convincing as the spiteful Padre Damaso, while **soprano Katrina Saporantoss** sang beautifully as Tiya Isabel.

*For the full article, please click [here](#).*

**Alma May Dalida Hackett** - Filipino-American Opera singer - who also performed in the *Noli Me Tangere*, the Opera in New York City, Washington, DC and Los Angeles will once again grace the stage via Teatro Pilipino USA at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center from October 1 - 3, 2015.



**Thank You Very Much! Maraming Salamat Po!**

We wish to personally extend our most sincere gratitude for your wonderful support for the premiere presentation of *Noli Me Tangere, the Opera* last summer at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on August 8 and 9, 2014!



**Patrick Realiza, Matthew Aninzo, Lorna and Ed Seidel  
| MAFFAA Executive Board of Directors |**

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