MELODIES AND MEMORIES OF THE MILLENIUM

by:
Abegail Y. Arenas
Teacher Applicant, Hermosa District

Let us wander about the distinguishing features brought by Filipino customs and traditions as time transition goes by. We proudly represent secular music and its philanthropic contribution in the society. It delves to get recognized about the Western colonization existed since ancient times. It resembles the combination musical accompaniment and dance presentation exhibited by Filipino citizens.

Traditionally, Filipino culture was inhabited by the tribal groups who accustomed ceremonial rites, sacred images, human beliefs and cultural heritage within the community. The desirable attitude characterizes good personality to make a powerful impact to foreigners. This engraves historical remarks on the Philippine country as the citizen promotes travel and tourism.

Consequently, there are several kinds of secular music namely: Harana, Kumintang, Pandanggo, Polka, Balitaw and Kundiman. This becomes popular in commemoration of ethnographic and cultural background in the Philippines. This is accountable in displaying the best sceneries and rituals that is part of milestone on today’s generation.

Harana displays about the chivalrous deeds of the male suitors who is asking ladies’ hand during courtship. It is an act of expressing love and affection towards someone special. It also gives respect and deference to the woman closed to his heart. Indeed, this is one of the adorable Filipino positive attitudes in treating the female as special being.
Kumintang is considered as romantic secular music that gives venue for carnival performance. Actually, it is designed by Nicanor Abelardo who is highly-inspired with the written composition themed “Mutya ng Pasig”. It also features a beautiful maiden adored by most gentlemen due to her distinct quality. Hence, it represents country’s liberation and ideal love in someone’s heart.

Pandanggo is a classical dance that can be exhibited in various areas in Luzon region. The word “fandango” which means “courtship” is a Spanish word. This dance originates in the 19th century especially on Manila well-off people and later adapted among local communities. This is entertaining performance during social affairs. It is a form of courtship dance through the collaboration of farmers planting in the rice fields.

Polka derives from the Bohemian dance in the European countries during nineteenth century. Whereas, Philippines usually presents this in elegant evening gathering in high-class profile. This shows harmonic tunes and melodious music for entertainment.

Balitaw is another form of courtship in rendition of the popular folk songs such as Sa Libis ng Nayon, Bakya Mo Neneng, Amunding-munding composed by Santiago Suarez and Severino Reyes.

Kundiman means “conditional love” for it portrays selfless and spiritual expression of love song. This includes displaying romance with someone special. It characterizes on human feelings between two people who are destined to be lovers.

Relatively, I would like to recommend the most popular tourist destination here in Bataan province called “Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar”. Through visiting the classical scenery in Spanish colonial period, we can reflect about the ambience of the Katipuneros and Filipinas wearing the national costume. You can absolutely visualize the building infrastructures which is made up of granite stones. Then, we can also observe the sorts of tradition in line with background music, clothing and fabrics which are preserved in their
Likewise, you will feel amaze about their past time as they play indigenous games and fishing activities nearby the seashore. Thus, the main highlight of the Filipino culture is focused on the Christianity. We can also witness the different folk songs existed in the primitive times. There comes the natural phenomenon like sunlight and sunset on the radiant sky. Therefore, you will feel the simple lifestyle through appreciating beauty of nature.

Another thing, I will like to introduce you the beautiful place in Vigan. This is composed of the ancestral houses and building structures in one straight lane. You can be able to ride in our national vehicle called Kalesa. You can take a snap on your footsteps with the shades of bricks. Their houses are being reconstructed with igneous rock structure and wooden substance. They used to manufacture goodies and souvenirs for promoting the best products of Northern Luzon region. You can be able to gaze on the antiquity of classical home.

Indeed, Dance is a wonderful masterpiece of Filipino culture. It brings about the beauty of cultural heritage accustomed by people. It can be an expression of art through bodily movements, hand gestures, facial expression and social context. Historically-speaking, Filipinos are naturally sentimental and expressive in the form of musical preference. They tend to compose lyrics connected to contextual feels. They also incorporate attitude together with cultural context. They use non-verbal cues to represent their thoughts, feelings, and ideals in human lives. They establish harmonious relationship through dance interpretations. As we can observed in our daily endeavors, Filipinos are born conservative and artistic through embracing the culture wholeheartedly.

Eventually, these traditional dances are performed during August in celebration of Buwan ng Wika. It is officially become part of the curricular activities held in campus institution throughout the school year. The students are engaged with different folk
dances in response to genre of ancient times. They are going to utilize props, costumes, and textiles based on the theme designed by ethnic groups.

Being a future teacher of 21st century era, I am going to instill both academic and cultural context of studies to students. I will be a mediocre in terms of performing arts and musical orchestration in dealing the transcendental period of livelihood. I will empower the required skills, knowledge and attitudes aligned with the Philippine customs and traditions. I will entertain my students by bringing them to the classical period such as bayanihan, panunuyo, utang na loob, family orientation, hospitality, generosity and modesty among women. By means of that, they will enculturate these positive traits through representing Filipino qualities. Hence, they will ensure the lifelong learning process for attaining the academic achievement in teacher’s target goals. Let them acquire the nature of knowledge, incorporate them with needed skills and impart its value in student’s academic growth and development to become highly-qualified individuals someday.

References:

Siobal Lourdes, Music and Arts (Learners’ Material of Grade 7)