

MONITOR PRESENTS

A PHILIPPINE CHRISTMAS

WITH

Bayanihan

PHILIPPINE DANCE COMPANY

monitor
MUSIC OF THE WORLD



MF 427

Bayanihan

CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Rivalled only by the town fiestas, Christmas represents the most important social and religious celebration in the Philippines. Four centuries of Christian heritage have made a Philippine Christmas a unique occasion. December finds the Philippines enjoying the cool season and the harvest period. The rural countryside is golden brown and the sky is clear. The first visual signs of the approaching holiday season are the Christmas lanterns (made of bamboo frames covered with tissue or crepe paper, with candles or light-bulbs inside) hung from every house. Stars (like the one shown on the cover) are the favorite shape. Nativity scenes (*Belen*) are also popular.

The official opening of the season takes place on December 16th with the first of nine *Misas de gallo* (Masses at cock-crow). The people are roused at about 3:30 A.M. by church bells (and sometimes fireworks) in order to attend Mass at 4:00 or 4:30 A.M. Whole families attend and after Mass stop off at little stalls to sample or take home special foods such as *bibingka* (cakes made of rice flour and egg yolks), *suman* (rice cakes colored violet and steamed in bamboo tubes), *buko* and *makapuno* (young coconut meat), and many other delicacies. The children sing and visit with each other during the ensuing early morning meetings. The pitch of excitement rises until the big day arrives. The final nocturnal Mass is the *Missa de Aguinaldo* (Mass of the Christmas gift) which corresponds with the Midnight Mass of Western countries.

Christmas Day is a time for family reunions and for visiting relatives and close friends. The children greet the older members of the family and their godparents by kissing the back of the right hand, saying "*mano po*" (May I kiss your hand?). This is a sign of respect and the children are given presents by the elders who also bless them at the same time. Food is plentiful and all visitors are given refreshments. The houses have been cleaned and all are expected to wear new clothes.

Music forms an important part of the Christmas celebrations. In some areas carolers go from house to house, singing for free or for presents. Various types of bands including the *musikong bumbong* (bamboo instruments) and *rondalla* (string ensemble) are heard. Hymns are sung at the Masses and children in school sing carols. On this recording the listener will find a good cross-section of Philippine Christmas music. The BAYANIHAN Philippine Dance Company, which has won world-wide fame for its singing as well as its dancing, actively participates in the Christmas festivities in Manila by performing on television programs and by taking part in a mammoth Christmas show in the *Luneta*, Manila's open, public park.

Through this unusual phonograph record, BAYANIHAN joins you in celebrating Christmas, and in doing so, sends you the traditional Philippine greeting of the season, "*Maligayang Pasko*," or Merry Christmas!

SIDE ONE

1. **MEDLEY OF CHRISTMAS SONGS**, played by the Bayanihan "rondalla," arranged by **Juanito Gonzales**, conducted by **Lucrecia Kasilag**.
2. **SA MAY BAHAY ANG AMING BATI**, traditional Tagalog carol; "to the owners of the house we say a merry Christmas."
3. **TALANG PATNUBAY (Silent Night)**, sung in Tagalog, solo by **Lenora Alano**.
4. **ANG PASKO AY SUMAPIT**, music by Restituto Umali, sung by the chorus in Tagalog. The words tell the Christmas story, the visit of the Wise Men, and conclude that "love is the true Christmas spirit."
5. **PASAYLOA**, a traditional Cebuano carol, male duet by **Jesus Tan** and **Jose Yelo**. "Pardon us for making noise today."
6. **NACIO, NACIO, PASTORES**, a typical Spanish "villancico" or carol, sung by the chorus in Spanish.
7. **O HOLY NIGHT**, also known as "Cantique de Noel," sung in English, solo by **Leonora Alano**.

SIDE TWO

1. **SAULOGON**, traditional carol from Cebu, sung in Cebuano, solo by **Hilda Alicer**.
2. **AWITAN NG MGA ANGHEL, (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)**, sung in Tagalog by the chorus.
3. **ANIA NGA UBING TI CAPUDAW**, traditional carol from the Ilocos, sung in Ilocano by the chorus, "Glory to the Father, Glory to the Son, Glory to the Holy Spirit."
4. **NAGASAT A CARARUA**, sung in Ilocano to the music of the old hymn, "O Santissima."
5. **HALINA KAYO'T PAGMASDAN**, traditional Tagalog carol, "come let us watch the Baby, born in the manger."
6. **GABING MAHAL**, traditional Tagalog carol — Beloved Night.
7. **NOONG UNANG PASKO, (The First Noel)**, sung in Tagalog.
8. **O MAGSAYA, (Joy to the World)**, sung in Tagalog.
9. **HALINA, HALINA, (O Come All Ye Faithful)**, sung in Tagalog and Latin.

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Bayanihan

PHILIPPINE DANCE COMPANY

Produced by the Bayanihan Folk Arts Center, Manila, Philippines

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Dancers

Dolores Alano	Lenora Alano	Hilda Alicer	Maria Rosario Arrieta
Rosky Balahadia	Purissima Capistrano	Zorayda Amelia Capistrano	Carmen de Jesus
Cristina Flores	Carolina Iñigo	Maria Cristina Lim	Lourdes Locsin
Fiordelis Primero	Minda Primero	Carmelita Ramos	Maria Lilia Sevilla
Angelita Toribio	Maria Lourdes Urtula	Francisco Abacan	Alfonso Ambida
Jose Antonio	Alfredo Noel Benitez	Euseo Bernabe	Rodolfo de Leon
Alfredo Durano	Chito Grojo	Alberto Liwanag	Jaime Pabalan
	Alejandro Yabut	Jose Yelo	Tirso Ynciong

Instrumentalists

Delfin Bermudez Jose Carreon Jose Cuadra Sernuel Mendoza

Rondalla Members

Juanito Gonzales, Rondalla Maestro; Hermogenes Geronimo, Rosa Puertollano, Jesus Tan, Sarah Trinidad, Crescencio Ventura, Atanacio Yco

For complete catalogue, "Music of the World" write:

MONITOR RECORDS

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HIGH FIDELITY RECORDINGS

MF 427

This is a monaural recording. You may play it on all 33 1/3, long-playing phonographs and high fidelity systems, regular or stereo. For the care of this record check your needle periodically, store away from the heat, and wipe with a damp cloth before playing. For playback on wide-range equipment use the RIAA curve.

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