



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Foundation

NEWS

\$10,000 Scholarship Lives On

Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. and Seven Oaks Education Foundation Establish a permanent Music and Arts Leadership Award



The goal of a scholarship is to both encourage and assist students in pursuing a post-secondary education. That's why permanent scholarships are so important; they continue to help students year after year.

The ISKOLAR: Music and Arts Night held on October 29, 2022 was initiated by the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI). The fundraiser was held in support of the ongoing fundraising efforts of Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF) to create more permanent scholarships and bursaries.

Held at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre (SOPAC), the event was a rousing success, showcasing the wide variety of talented people in the Seven Oaks community.

Perhaps more importantly, the fundraiser raised a total of \$7,014.29 in donations, with those proceeds going to SOEF.

Fast forward to a SOEF Board meeting where it was resolved, ***“That the SOEF top up the donations with \$2,985.71 and together with the \$7,014.29 received, transfer \$10,000 to the Winnipeg Foundation to establish the FMAACI-SOEF Music & Arts Leadership Scholarship Fund that will live in perpetuity.”***

With that, the latest scholarship was created, giving music and arts students another opportunity to explore their potential in a post-secondary environment.

And it all started with our community coming together.

AN INCREDIBLE ISKOLAR EVENING!

An inspiring array of Manitoba talent – many SOSD alumni – turned out breathtaking performances in support of scholarships!

The musical concert was opened by FMAACI president, Ernesto Ofiaza Jr. reading a Treaty 1 Land acknowledgment and recognition of sponsors and donors. A welcome remarks by SOEF's president Irv Simmonds followed. And the rest of the night was emceed by Love MJ.

The event was supported by different community organizations and leaders, students, and generous individuals and business establishments. Their efforts made for an evening of entertainment that truly had something for everyone.



Jovelle Balani is a rising star in Manitoba's music scene, a singer-songwriter who specializes in pop, jazz, and soul. She represented Canada at the World Championships of Performing Arts 2020 and 2022 and was awarded medals in several vocal categories.



Jovelle Balani captivates the crowd with her voice at the ISKOLAR: Music and Arts Night.



Yaryna and Mariia with Ernesto Ofiaza Jr. FMAACI president in their rendition of "Hallelujah".



While pianist Yaryna Chepiha and flautist Mariia Balieieva are both from the Ukraine, they were complete strangers when they came to Canada only few months ago.

Now, away from a country ravaged by war, they said that their stay in Winnipeg has worked miracles, healing them little by little. And they share their love and strength to raise awareness for the Ukraine with their music and creativity.



Levy Abad and his guitar take center stage.

Levy Abad is an author, songwriter, recording artist, and member of Migrante Manitoba; a chapter of Philippines-based Migrante International devoted to improving the lives of migrants people all over the world. He's also co-founder of the Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI) who initiated the fundraising event.



The 12/21 – performing at ISKOLAR – are Winnipeg's Jim Beam Talent Search winners and have been featured on CBC Manitoba.

The 12/21 is an exciting pop punk trio, originally formed in Manila, Philippines. The trio are also alumni of Maples Collegiate. Newly signed artists for Black Sheep Records Manila and Viva Records Philippines, this young energetic act consists of three brothers: Roman Maceda, and twins Rico Maceda and Roque Maceda.



Keri Latimer performing a song she composed with Paramjit Singh, an active volunteer of Seven Oaks Immigrant Services and Adult Learning Centre.

Keri Latimer is a Canadian songwriter and singer who plays with local band, local musician who Leaf Rapids. She also happens to be a JUNO award recipient!

DJ Feliciano – aka Deej– is an alumnus of Garden City Collegiate who’s been playing guitar since the age of 12. He grew up surrounded with music throughout his childhood and post-secondary education. And he stopped in to share his talents with the ISKOLAR audience!



DJ Feliciano plays guitar and wows the crowd.



Daniel Tabo-oy, Crisanto Aquino and Jun Isla perform as a trio.



Daniel Tabo-oy, Crisanto Aquino and Jun Isla perform “Puff the Magic Dragon” with a little added magic.

Local folk singer, Daniel Tabo-oy, partnered with percussionist, Crisanto Aquino and FMAACI Treasurer, Jun Isla. The result? A talented trio for tunesmiths!



Knight and Angel – aka Andy and Gabbie Empuwesto – started as a father and daughter tandem in 2016 when Gabbie was just 9 years old. It's become a hobby for Gabbie to sing with her dad whenever Andy is playing his guitar.

Father/daughter duo, Knight and Angel enchant their audience.



Humous is an independent lo-fi alternative rock band formed in 2013 in Winnipeg. Since that time, they've written, arranged, recorded, and released over 30 original songs.

Humous brings their independent lo-fi alternative sound to the stage.



For the ALIW Soloistas - Filipinos Karaoke singers, Reggie Caburnay, Thess Bubay and Elmer Aquino – their voices are their instruments. And they played to perfection!

Filipinos Karaoke singers Reggie Caburnay, Thess Bubay and Elmer Aquino sing out.



Acoustic Live in Winnipeg - main group performers composed of Jojo Yso, Patrick Mayuga, Rodel Olesco, Arnold Tongol, and Larry Velasco.

Ending the night was Acoustic Live in Winnipeg. The main group performers consisted of Jojo Yso, Patrick Mayuga, Rodel Olesco, Arnold Tongol, and Larry Velasco. Together, they brought the house down.

ABOUT THE FUNDRAISERS



Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF) is dedicated to providing the students of Seven Oaks School Division with access to post-secondary education. SOEF envisions a supportive community where all students believe they can continue their education and training beyond high school.

The SOEF Board is composed of: Irv Simmonds, president; Pat Stefanchuk, past president; Avrum Senesky, vice president; Harriet Zaidman, secretary; Albert Yanofsky, Cheryl Senensky, Ernesto Ofiaza Jr., Fran Taylor, Howard Kowalchuk, Nicole Laavellee, Navjeet Kambo, Tammy Fraser, Sherri Denysuik, and Ryan Cook, as members of the board of directors.

Filipino Music and Arts Association of Canada Inc. (FMAACI) is a federally registered non-profit organization founded August of 2014. It aims to explore and develop unique and creative approaches in the preservation, promotion and blending of Filipino music and arts in our Canadian multi-cultural environment.

Its objectives are to discover and develop talents in music and art, establish and build relationships among Filipino artists through networking and mentoring, academic and artistic programs, and special recognition, and to share Filipino music and arts in the community, ensuring their continuity for the next generation.

FMAACI officers are comprised of: Ernesto Ofiaza Jr, president; Levy Abad, vice-president; Paige Dimayuga, secretary; Jun Isla, treasurer; Ernie Pionela, auditor; and Kris Ontong, Jojo Yso, Daniel Tabo-oy Jr., Jogin Tamayo, Jet Tabeuna, Alma Ganaden, and Susan Dimayuga, as board of directors' members.

On June 30, 2023, FMAACI will spearhead a Multi-Cultural Gathering for Peace, Healing and Reconciliation with the Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba, Indigenous groups, and different cultural ethnicities in line with the yearly Filipino Heritage Month celebration.