

ANTHONY CASTELO - Philippines' King of Love Songs

"Balatkayo lahat and buhay sa mundo. Nakangiti kahit hindi totoo.
Magandang bulaklak and s'yang katulad mo ngunit pag lapit ko'y walang bango"

The lines above are from the classic love song entitled Balatkayo composed by the Philippines' King of Love Songs, Anthony Castelo.

Fortunately, according to Cynthia de Castro of AJC Press, the multi-awarded singer/composer is exactly the opposite of being a balatkayo. A truly accomplished international artist, Anthony is a genuinely caring and loving human being who has lived to make a difference in the world he lives in. Despite a long list of gold records, sold out concerts and outstanding performances, he has not been dazzled by show business. He has always had an innate charitable interest in others.

Born in the Philippines, Anthony has a unique mix of Filipino and Portuguese/Spanish ancestry. He studied in LA and it was there, while in his teens, that he began his music career, joining the world famous choral group The Young Americans.

Later, while still a student of UP, Castelo joined the Gentle Rain - a group led by well known songwriter/producer Nonong Pederro. The quartet, whose members included Boy Camara and Rody Picar, developed an amazing quick and faithful following among college students. Later, Anthony was discovered by famous recording producers and OPM pioneers Vic del Rosario, Tony Ocampo, Orly Ilacad and Tito Sotto. A marvellous singer and performer gifted with a soulful baritone or tenor voice, he instantly gained the respect of his audience everywhere.

Anthony's success as a solo artist has been nothing short of remarkable. His songs quickly hit the charts and Castelo was dubbed the "Philippines' King of Love Songs." He has earned numerous awards for his music; among them were the ALIW and CECIL Awards (the Philippines version of the Grammy Award).

In addition to music, Anthony has also starred in several hit movies together with the Philippines' finest actors. His 1982 Movie of the Year Pakawalan Mo Ako, garnered him a nomination for the FAMAS Award. And the rest is history!!! Anthony's name is etched in the Philippines' history of music and entertainment as one of the best.

Apart from being a success in the music and entertainment scene, Anthony had served as a councillor of Quezon City for which he received the BANTAYOG Award for the "Most Outstanding Quezon City Councillor" in 1999 and 2000 given by the Quezon City Press Club.

It's not only in the Philippines that Anthony has been recognised for using his talents to help organisations such as the International Red Cross, the March of Dimes and other humanitarian institutions while living in the US. After the 9/11 terrorists' attack, he composed the song, Long Live America, which he presented to then President George W. Bush.

As a treat to the Sydney concert goers, Philippine Entertainment Network has organised for Anthony Castelo to perform in three (3) shows at the following venues: The Fitzroy Room, Campbelltown Catholic Club - Friday, 23 September at 8:00 pm, Deakin Football Club, Deakin ACT - Saturday, 24 September at 7:30 pm and in Western Sydney venue TBA on Sunday, 25 September. For tickets ring Nita on 0437 210 007.