

UCSD to present traditional music of southern Philippines, May 1 in Mandeville Auditorium

April 23, 1993

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UCSD TO PRESENT TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The music of the Filipino Kulintang and the colorful dances of the Mindanao people will be blended in a presentation titled "Cycles: Timeless Rituals to Ancient Icons," performed by the Filipino-American ensemble Kulintang Arts, at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 1, in the Mandeville Auditorium of the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets for "Cycles" are \$12/14 for general admission, \$10/12 for seniors and \$8/10 for students. They may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office and from TicketMaster outlets.

Additional activities associated with the event will include a discussion entitled "Using the Arts to Create a Voice," led by Kulintang Arts director Alleluia Panis at 4 p.m., Friday, April 30, in the Price Center Gallery A, at UCSD. Admission is free and the public is invited.

The Kulintang Arts Company was founded by Panis, Robert L. Henry and Marcella Pabros in 1985, and is located in Oakland, California.

The arts group focuses on the creation, performance and development of the kulintang genre in the United States, according to Panis.

The Kulintang Arts ensemble's performances are centered on the kulintang (meaning "golden sound moving"), a set of eight bronze gongs of graduated size, which are played with intricate rhythms.

The gongs are supported by other percussion instruments, such as the dabakan, a goblet-shaped drum; the gandingan, a set of four hanging gongs (also called talking gongs); agong, a pair of lower-pitched hanging gongs (the heartbeat of the ensemble), and the babendir, a large hanging gong.

Also played are the kutiyapi, a string instrument; a tompong, which is a bamboo flute; the kubing, a jaw harp made of bamboo, and the gandangan, a double-headed drum.

"Cycles" was created and choreographed by Panis, the group's artistic executive director, with composers James Frank Holder and Dana Nunez. The work, says Panis, is a tribute to America's first Filipinos, the labor used in American agriculture and the Alaskan canneries during the early 1900s.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office. For information call 534-4090.

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