



May 30, 2014

Bavarian Youth Jazz Orchestra graces 60th Anniversary of German-Philippine Diplomatic Relations

The Bavarian Youth Jazz Orchestra from Bavaria, Germany graced the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Philippine-German Diplomatic Relations in a free concert last Friday, May 23 at the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

Organized by the Goethe-Institut Philippinen (German Cultural Center), the UST and the German Embassy Manila, the concert also featured the well-acclaimed UST Jazz Band.

Officially opening the event were Dean of the UST Conservatory of Music Dr. Raul Sunico, the Goethe-Institut director Dr. Petra Raymond and German Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Michael Hasper. Also present was UST Father Rector Rev. Herminio Dagohoy, O.P.

23 musicians out of the Bavarian orchestra and 21 UST jazz band members met the day before for an interaction. At the concert, they did several tunes together including a jazz interpretation of the classic Filipino folk song "Leron, Leron, Sinta" – much to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Harald Rüschenbaum, conductor of the Bavarian group, led the audience in singing along, conducting both the crowd and the musicians.

Rain poured right before the opening performance of the Bavarian orchestra. However, it did little to change the mood or drive the people away. The audience simply got rid of their tables, crowded in front of the stage and cheered while organizers rushed to bring in the tents which were standing by exactly for the purpose.

The Bavarian jazz orchestra's stay in Manila was the last stop in a month-long tour of Southeast Asia. Before their performance at the UST, the group performed already six concerts in Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia. The tour was organized by the Goethe-Institut.

The Bavarian State Youth Jazz Orchestra is a top-ranking jazz orchestra with about 300 members in Germany, performing a mixture of Swing Classics and Modern Jazz, Latin Jazz, Jazz Rock and even Hip Hop. The musicians interpret works by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thad Jones, Pat Metheny, Maria Schneider and Peter Herbolzheimer. They also play compositions and arrangements produced by orchestra members and teachers.

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