

# Young Voices Rise For Global Hope and Unity

*Dr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan*

Heavenly voices in concert halls, moving music during masses, weekly rehearsals with choristers – these are the things that have changed in the choral scene for the past nine months. Things have been different than usual as musicians have now utilized digital technology to produce a choral performance – learning a piece individually, recording them to perfection, and taking a video in front of the camera, soon to be stitched together into one production.



Young Voices of the World participants: Kantabella, a scholar choir of the Treble Choir Association of the Philippines

But amid this trying time of adjustment and solitude, where

social interaction has shifted to the virtual scene, choral groups consisting of children and youth have stepped up and used their art to inspire, to express, and to connect—as music soars beyond boundaries and extends its wings to where harmony is needed most.

Last June 24, 2020, the Treble Association of the Philippines, Inc. (TCAP) successfully launched the Young Voices of the World through a virtual choral performance – with the theme Sing As One, music by Jude B. Roldan and lyrics by Ignatia Mariae Adeline, Charise Eryka Delson and Jude B. Roldan – in unity with children and youth choral artists from different countries as the world fights against the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative, which was premiered on Youtube, featured 37 amazing choirs from 17 countries including our scholar choirs, the Young Voices of the Philippines and Kantabella. These choirs are from Asia, Africa, America, and Europe.

The TCAP, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to cultivating young choral artists, spearhead research and development for children and youth choral movement, and promote Philippine music within the country and across the world. Aside from the Young Voices of the World, they have also launched variations in Asia and the Philippines, connecting 37 treble choirs across the globe with music. For the group, choral music is more than a discipline that cultivates exemplary skill and artistry, but also an effective medium to unify people through message and song—harmonizing for hope and solidarity amidst the adversity.



Young Voices of the World participants: 1st and 2nd rows (from left to right) Punggol Secondary School Choir, Hai Sing Catholic Secondary School Choir, The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Saint Angela Choir, Kuala Lumpur Children's Choir, 3rd and 4th rows (from left to right) Young Voices of the Philippines, Wattana Girls' Choir, 5th and 6th rows (from left to right) Ikeda Junior Choir, Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir, Choir of Seongam International Trade High School

Here is the list of choral groups for your reference:

### Young Voices of the World

- Cantemus Children's Choir (Hungary) cond. Maestro Dénes Szabó
- Hamilton Children's Choir (Canada) cond. Ms. Zimfira Poloz
- Kantabella (Philippines) cond. Mr. Jude B. Roldan
- Kinderchor der Staatsoper Unter den Linden (Germany) cond. Mr. Vinzenz Weissenburger
- Kodaly Conservatory Children's Choir (Greece) cond. Mr.

Michalis Patseas

- Leioa Kantika Korala Children's Choir (Basque Country, Spain) cond. Mr. Basilio Astúlez
- Ponomaryov Vesna Children's Choir (Russia) cond. Dr. Nadezhda Averina
- Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir (USA) cond. Dr. Janet Marie Hostetter
- Soul Sounds Academy (Sri Lanka) cond. Ms. Soundarie David Rodrigo
- Tygerberg Children's Choir (South Africa) cond. Ms. Karina Erasmus
- The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem (USA) cond. Dr. Joy Hirokawa
- Young Voices of the Philippines (Philippines) cond. Mr. Jude B. Roldan and Dr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan



Young Voices of the World participants: 1st and 2nd rows (from left to right) Kodaly Conservatory Children's Choir of Greece, Tygerberg Children's Choir, Leioa Kantika Korala Children's Choir; 3rd and 4th rows (from left to right) Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, Hamilton Children's Choir, Ponomaryov Vesna

Children's Choir; 5th and 6th rows (from left to right) Soul Sounds Academy, Kinderchor der Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Cantemus Children's Choir

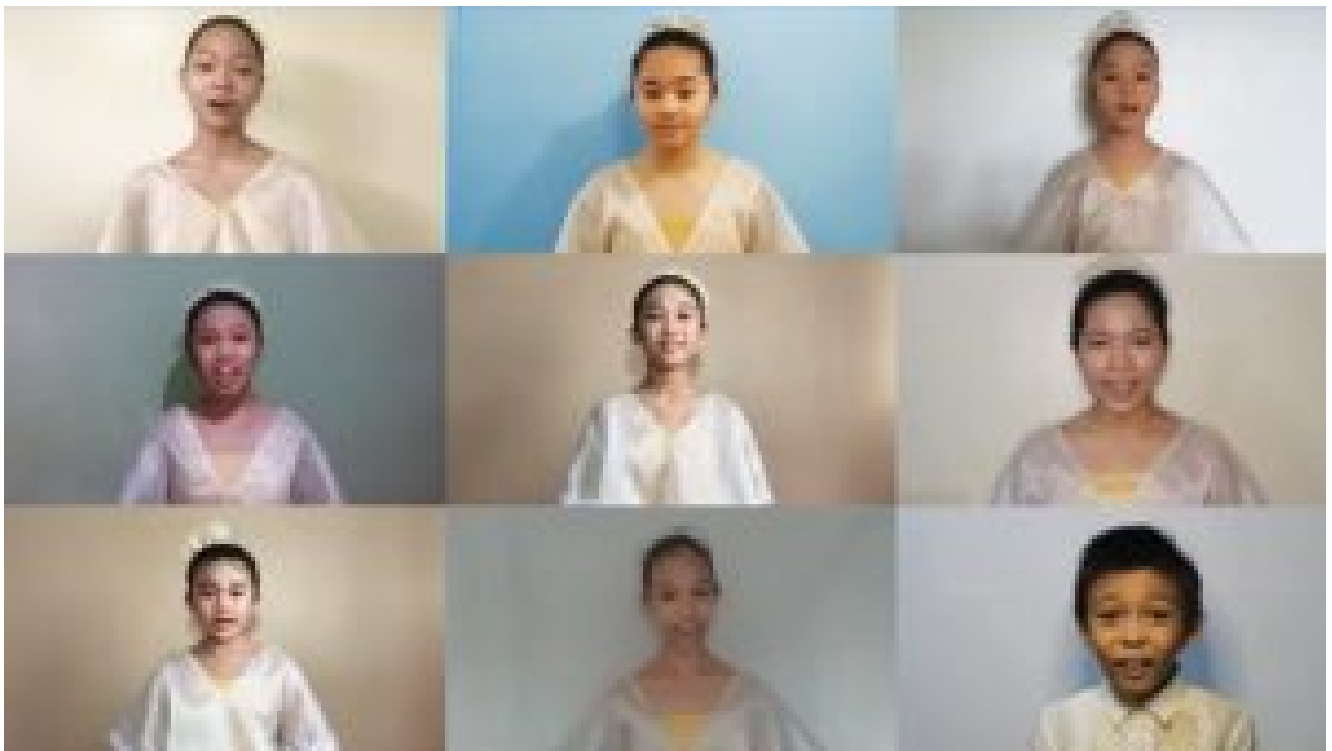


Young Voices of the World participants: 1st row (from left to right) Savior Singers, Mandaue Children's Choir, Aurorae Girls Choir; 2nd row (from left to right) St. John the Baptist Children's Choir, Bitik Children's Choir, Kilyawan Boys Choir; 3rd row (from left to right) Voices of the South Children's Choir, Calasiao Children's Choir, Dreamweavers Children's Choir; 4th row (from left to right) Raz Singing Cherubim, Living Learning Children's Chorus, Himig Zamor; 5th row (from left to right) Loboc Children's Choir, Dagupan City Children's Choir, Baao Children and Youth Choir; 6th row (from left to right) Las Pinas Boys Choir, Prayer Bible Fellowship Children's Choir, Laoag City Children's Choir

## Young Voices of Asia

- Hai Sing Catholic Secondary School Choir and Punggol Secondary School Choir (Singapore) cond. Mr. Marcus Lee

- Ikeda Junior Choir (Japan) cond. Ms. Kayoko Shibuya
- Kuala Lumpur Children's Choir (Malaysia) cond. Ms. Susanna Saw
- Saint Angela Choir (Indonesia) cond. Mr. Roni Sugiarto
- Seongam International Trade High School Choir (Korea) cond. Ms. Kwon Yong-sik
- Taipei Philharmonic Youth and Children's Choir (Taiwan) cond. Ms. Sandy Fu
- Wattana Girls' Chorus (Thailand) cond. Mr. Sathit Sukchongchaipruk
- Kantabella (Philippines)
- Young Voices of the Philippines (Philippines) cond. Mr. Jude B. Roldan and Dr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan



Young Voices of the World participants: Young Voices of the Philippines, a scholar choir of the Treble Choir Association of the Philippines

## Young Voices of the Philippines Festival Choir

- Baao Children & Youth Choir, cond. Mr. Hermelino Briones
- Bitik Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Ron April Frias
- Calasiao Children's Chorus, cond. Mr. Gilbert Allan Dispo
- Dagupan City Children's Choir, cond. Virginia Llamas-Mendoza
- Dreamweavers Children's Choir, cond. Ms. Perlyn Joy Enriquez
- Himig Zamora Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Ivan Grulla
- Kilyawan Boys Choir and Voces Aurorae Girls Choir, cond. Mr. Mark Anthony Carpio
- Laoag City Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Vernix Magayano
- Las Piñas Boys Choir, cond. Mr. Armando Salarza
- Loboc Children's Choir, cond. Ms. Lea Claudia Cal
- Mandaue Children & Youth Chorus, cond. Mr. Dennis Gregory Sugarol
- Raz Singing Cherubim, cond. Ms. Alijah May Raz
- Savio Singers, cond. Mr. Frinz Charles Casas
- St. John the Baptist Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Bryan Lejano
- Voices of the South Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Peter Buaya
- Young Voices of the Philippines, Living Learning Children's Chorus, and Prayer Bible Fellowship Children's Choir, cond. Mr. Jude B. Roldan and Dr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan



**Dr Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan completed her *Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education* degree at Saint Paul University Manila. She also graduated as a *Bachelor of Music in Music Education, cum laude* and**

*Master of Arts in Choral Conducting* from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music. She teaches conducting, large ensemble classes and music education at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, Centro Escolar University Conservatory of Music and Graduate School. To promote Filipino choral music and in their advocacy to strengthen the children's choral movement in the Philippines, Theresa, together with her husband Jude, arranges Filipino folksongs and writes choral music for children's choirs. They also founded the *Treble Choir Association of the Philippines* and its scholar choirs, the *Young Voices of the Philippines* and *Kantabella*, of which she is the conductor and the co-artistic director. They organised *Groundwork for Choirs*, a series of choral workshops for conductors around Southeast Asia, and released their book *Groundwork for Part-Singing*, a collection of short pieces to develop choristers' ability to sing in parts. Her choral works have been published, performed and premiered at various choral festivals and competitions around the world. These works were published by Hal Leonard Publishing Company and Pavane Publishing in the USA. She was one of the featured composers at the 2015 Pacific International Choral Festival in Eugene, Oregon, USA. As a sought-after choral instructor, children's choir conductor, guest conductor and choral clinician, Theresa has given conducting master classes, presented choral and music education lectures and led workshops around the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and the United States of America. She has also been invited to adjudicate in prestigious international choral festivals and competitions and has served as chairwoman for choir competitions in the National Music



**Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) in the Philippines. Currently, Dr Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan is also the Vice President for Projects of the Philippine Choral Directors Association. Email: [mtvizconderoldan@yahoo.com](mailto:mtvizconderoldan@yahoo.com)**

*Edited by Christopher Lutton, UK*