

PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL CONCERT PIANIST MARIEL ILUSORIO DRAWS PRAISES FROM SOUTH AFRICAN AUDIENCE



Filipino international concert pianist Mariel Ilusorio (2nd from left) and Chilean violinist-conductor Juan Luis Munoz (center) posed with Philippine Ambassador to South Africa Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. after their successful performance at the University of Johannesburg Art Centre recently. Others in photo are Ms. Lilac Arcos (extreme left) from the Filipino Community and Ms. Aleta Michaletos (extreme right) a South African artist.

28 June 2006—Philippine Ambassador to Pretoria, South Africa Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that International Filipina concert pianist, Mariel Ilusorio, with Juan Luis Munoz, a highly acclaimed Chilean violinist-conductor, drew praises from the local audience as they performed at the University of Johannesburg Art Centre on 19 June 2006.

The concert, which is a part of the Sundowner Concert Series lasted for an hour. The very appreciative crowd were profuse in their

appreciation of the performers' repertoire that included pieces from W.A. Mozart (*Sonata for Violin and Piano in B-flat Major, K378, Allegro moderato, Andantino sostenuto e cantabile, Rondeau.Allegro*), E. Grieg (*Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in F major, Allegro con brio, Allegretto quasi andantino, Allegro molto*

vivace), and A. Dvorak (*Sonatina in G for violin and piano, Op. 100, Allegro risoluto, Larghetto, Scherzo. Molto vivace, Finale.Allegro*).

The audience thus rewarded the performers with sound applause and several standing ovations. Philippine Ambassador to South Africa Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. and other officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy attended the concert in support of the Filipina pianist.

With Mariel Ilusorio's 10-year stay in Germany after her studies in the United States, she garnered several prizes in Europe, which includes a Special Prize in the 14th Rina Sala Gallo International Piano Competition in Italy, a Medal as 4th place in the 45th Maria Canals Piano Competition in Barcelona, the East Friesland Piano Prize 1999 in Germany, and the Grand Prize in the Carlo Soliva International Competition 2000 in Italy. These enabled her to perform critically-acclaimed piano recitals in various European cities. She has also been featured piano soloist of the Julliard Pre-College Symphony Orchestra, the Oberlin Symphony Orchestra, the Cantu Orchestra, the Manila Chamber Orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Wernigerode Chamber Orchestra.

Besides being an active soloist, Mariel has a strong passion for chamber music. Pianist of the Pacific Trio (clarinet-cello-piano), she performs concerts throughout Germany as part of the Artists' List of the Friedrich-Juergen-Sellheim-Society e.V. and the Dorian Foundation. She has collaborated with the finest musicians in Germany and abroad as scholar of the Villa Musica Chamber Music Academy and appointed accompanist in the State Academy of Music Hannover.

Mariel regularly returns to the Philippines to do outreach concert tours and master classes and work with fellow musicians from her country. She has made South Africa her new home, where she continues her musical career as soloist, chamber musician, teacher and accompanist. END