

JUS' US



Roland "Lando" Aton (b. 1939) was born in Ho'olehua, Molokai, where his father worked after coming from Cebu in 1916. In 1944 his family moved to Kunia Camps (O'ahu). Lando's exposure to Filipino music started early as a child singing at prayers, but he gave up music during high school to concentrate on athletics. While attending Chaminade College, Lando hooked up with a rock-and-roll band called, *The Drifters*, performing on Tom Moffat's "Show of Stars" as opening act to notables such as Tommy Sands, Fabian, and *The Platters*. Lando later learned four-part harmony with Sam Kapu at the Queen's Surf, one of Don Ho's productions.



Joe Engbino (b. 1939) was born in Maui, moved to Lāna'i, then to O'ahu in 1947. In his youth Joe was surrounded by Filipino music: his father played the banjo and his mother and sisters sang. He fondly remembers Christmas caroling throughout the camps. Raised mostly in Kalihi, Joe graduated from Farrington High School. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Joe began playing jazz/Hawaiian music around town, notably with the group, *Noeau*. At different points in his life, Joe worked with National Air Guard, Pan Am Airlines, Hawaiian Air and Hickam Air Base.



Group leader, Julian Yorong (b. 1936), is the only member who grew up with rondalla music. His father, Jose, won a Filipino rondalla contest in the 1940s with the 'Aiea Rizal Band. The tour that followed the contest influenced Julian to take up music. He signed up for clarinet in elementary school and, at 'Aiea High School, represented the school in the all-rural district band. Maintaining a Pearl Harbor shipyard day-job, Julian played in numerous venues with many talented local musicians including Berne Hal-Mann, Herb "Ohta-san" Ohta, and *Wally and the Whalers*. Eventually, he joined Roland and Wally at the Flamingo Chuckwagon.

UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services presents:

Kundiman

Hawaiian

Jus' Us

Jazz

Roland Aton

Joe Engbino

Julian Yorong

Folk

Monday, February 6, 2012

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Orvis Auditorium

Co-sponsored by

UHM Music Department, UHM Ethnic Studies Department,
UHM American Studies Department,
and the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii

PRELUDE

Rondalla music thrived in Hawai'i's Filipino plantation communities in the first half of the 20th century. Throughout the Hawaiian Islands contests were held to determine the best rondalla ensemble. To recapture and promote some of this musical tradition, the *Julian Yorong Rondalla Group* formed in 1999.



Original members of the *Julian Yorong Rondalla Group* at the 2006 Filipino Centennial Celebration Opening (December 10, 2005). Left to right: Julian Yorong, Roland Aton, Sonny Popa, Joe Engbino and Frank Mamalias.

Even though each musician in the *Group* already played in various venues and with different ensembles, they would come together to perform rondalla-style music at innumerable Filipino community functions. In 2006, the *Group's* key rondalla player and master of Filipino martial arts, Florentino Padilla "Frank" Mamalias, passed away. Four years later, the *Group* lost another member, Anacleto "Sonny" Nolinol Popa.

Rondalla music is rarely played anymore in Hawai'i. Yorong reflects, "Kids don't take interest in things of the past. By performing around town, at least we get the music out there." In 2008, with four members, the *Group* was recorded by the Filipino Community Center (Waipahu) as part of a cultural preservation grant. The three remaining musicians of the *Julian Yorong Rondalla Group* perform this afternoon.

Along with our co-sponsors, the UHM Mānoa Office of Multicultural Student Services is proud to present, with their unique blend of Filipino, Hawaiian and jazz standards — Roland Aton, Joe Engbino and Julian Yorong — *Jus' Us*.

PROGRAM

Introduction

Zamboanga March (trad.)

No Dua-Duaem Pay (*If You Still Doubt*, trad.)

Maligayang Araw (*Joyful Day*, trad.)

Under the Double Eagle (J. F. Wagner)

Blue Hawaii (L. Robin & R. Rainger)

Waikiki Chickadee (M. Paoa)

Ku'u ipo i ka he'e pu'e one (M. Likelike)

Break

Scrapple from the Apple (C. Parker)

Samba de Orfeu (L. Bonfa)

Out of Nowhere (J. Green & E. Heyman)

Whispering (V. Rose, J. Schonberger & R. Coburn)

Talk Story (Q & A)

A reception follows the conclusion of this presentation.

Music from the *Julian Yorong Rondalla Group* 2008 recording session may be downloaded from the eFIL archives website:
http://efilarchives.org/collections/julian_yorong.htm

The UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services sincerely thanks the following individuals for their assistance in making this event possible:

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