



Cultures in Harmony

“Structures of Culture, Structures of Hope”

A Collaboration between
Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. and Cultures in Harmony
for the Tagbanua Indigenous People
of Northern Palawan

August 13-21, 2014



PROJECT REPORT



Nurturing Filipino Indigenous peoples heritage through relevant education

Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) is a non-profit organization that envisions a nation where indigenous Filipino children and adults, with no access to basic services, can exercise their right to have quality education and active participation in community life.

“Structures of Culture. Structures of Hope” PROJECT REPORT

Project Background

When Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) hit in November 2013, it made its last landfall in the Calamian Islands, Northern Palawan causing immense devastation in the area. **Cartwheel Foundation, Inc.’s (CFI)** partner indigenous *Tagbanua* communities, who live along the coastlines of Culion, were among those that had been gravely affected. Homes, classrooms, and boats used for livelihood were severely damaged by the strong winds and heavy downpour of the storm.

In the aftermath of the disaster, CFI responded through *Project RISE* (“Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education”)—an initiative that aims to establish and institutionalize collaborative and sustainable rebuilding program for the benefit of 110 *Tagbanua* families through the following: (a) Innovative psychosocial support approaches for healing and recovery, (b) Building of disaster resilient structures, and (c) Facilitation of sustainable livelihood development opportunities.

It in this context that “*Structures of Culture, Structures of Hope*”—the 2014 collaboration between CFI and **Cultures in Harmony (CiH)** was born. CiH is a US-based cultural diplomacy organization that forges connections across cultural and national barriers through the medium of music and has been a partner of CFI since 2006. In nurturing Filipino indigenous heritage, both organizations highlight music and art as tools for expression and communication. For this collaboration, CFI and CiH came together specifically contribute to the efforts of and for the *Tagbanua* post-Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), encouraging them to find strength in the richness of their own traditional music and cultural life ways, and renew community confidence.

Key Activities

August 13-14, 2014: Cultural Exchange

On the week of August 13-17, 2014, four CiH musicians visited the *Tagbanua* communities to hold cultural and musical exchange workshops and performances.

For five days, Julliard-trained classical musicians Rebecca Schlappich, Kimberly Patterson, Frank Shaw and Danielle Kuhlmann joined a select group of *Tagbanua* instrumentalists from some of the island communities of Culion and neighboring Coron.

Local participants were Jermie Abella and Kennedy Lido from Sitio Chindonan; Francisco Abella, Jerico Abella, and Rodolfo Abella from Sitio Alulad; Jomar Apolinario from Barangay Cabugao; Diosdado Abella and Toledo Abella from Barangay Banuang Daan.

The opportunity for learning about each other’s music was deep and meaningful as there was much time for interaction. Introductions began with each of the groups performing a traditional piece from their own communities—the *Tagbanua* sang *tablay*, and demonstrated their *suring*, one of their more famous dances with a man and a woman as partners. CiH musicians in turn



CiH musicians play an uplifting song during the cultural exchange workshop with Tagbanua musicians (August 13, 2014; Tabing Dagat, Culion, Palawan)

played Ashokan Farewell, an example of an instrumental American folk song, and Fugue from K.404A: Adagio-Vivace by Mozart, to show classical European music that had been composed centuries before.



CiH and Tagbanua musicians creating beautiful music together (August 13, 2014; Taging Dagat, Culion, Palawan)

Nurturing a free and open learning environment, each of the participants took turns in sharing about details on their respective instruments. These included the process of crafting it, the different materials used, the manner by which it is played, and even the possible inspiration for its creation. They enjoyed trying to make sounds with the instruments that were not theirs – the Tagbanua playing on the Western violin, viola, cello, and French horn while the CiH musicians attempting to create music with the indigenous *tambol* (drums), *flauta* (flute), and *yuke* (ukulele). As they shared cultures through stories and song, the Tagbanua have recommitted to keeping alive the spirit uniquely their own as an indigenous people.

The workshops soon turned into a fellowship transcending language and cultural barriers, with CiH and *Tagbanua* musicians performing alongside each other in a series of interactive musical concerts. They toured around the indigenous communities of Cagait, Chindonan, Alulad in Culion, and Kayangan in Coron; they also serenaded the cured lepers of Yangco Hall at the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital and performed for the townspeople at Culion Elementary School. All the audiences were actively engaged in their program where Western and Tagbanua songs were played and knowledge about their music was shared.



Community Performances in Culion, Palawan (clockwise): 1 - CiH and Tagbanua musicians jointly perform for the community members of Sitio Cagait; 2 - CiH musicians Rebecca Schlappich and Kimberly Patterson during an interactive musical presentation with the children of Sitio Chindonan; 3 - CiH and Tagbanua musicians with the Cartwheel Team of Culion and the community members of Sitio Alulad; 4 - CiH and Tagbanua during their last performance for the community members of Culion Town.

August 21, 2014: Concert at the Ayala Museum

The collaboration culminated in a concert entitled ***"Cultures in Harmony: Building Structures of Hope with Filipino Indigenous Communities"*** on August 21, 2014 at the Ayala Museum in Makati City, where the four participating CiH musicians performed with the talented members of the **Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO)** and **MSO Junior**. Western classical pieces were played as well as Filipino folk songs. One of the highlights of the concert was the grand finale, where CiH, MSO and MSO Junior jointly performed the *Tagbanua Paalam* (Farewell) Song, arranged for string orchestra by CiH's Danielle Kuhlmann.



Concert at the Ayala Museum (clockwise): 1 – CiH musicians perform *Quartetto no. 2* by J. Amon; 2 – MSO performs, led by Executive Director Jeffrey Solares; 3 – CiH musicians and Cartwheel Board of Trustees and MSO's Jeffrey Solares; 4 – CiH musicians with MSO and MSO Junior.

The entire collaboration was also part of Cartwheel's 15th Anniversary celebration, made possible through the cooperation of the **La Inmaculada Concepcion Parish of Culion, MAGIS Creative Spaces, Ayala Museum, DAKILA** and sponsorships from **Park N Ride, Inc.** and **Brightlight Interior Design, Inc.**

Conclusion

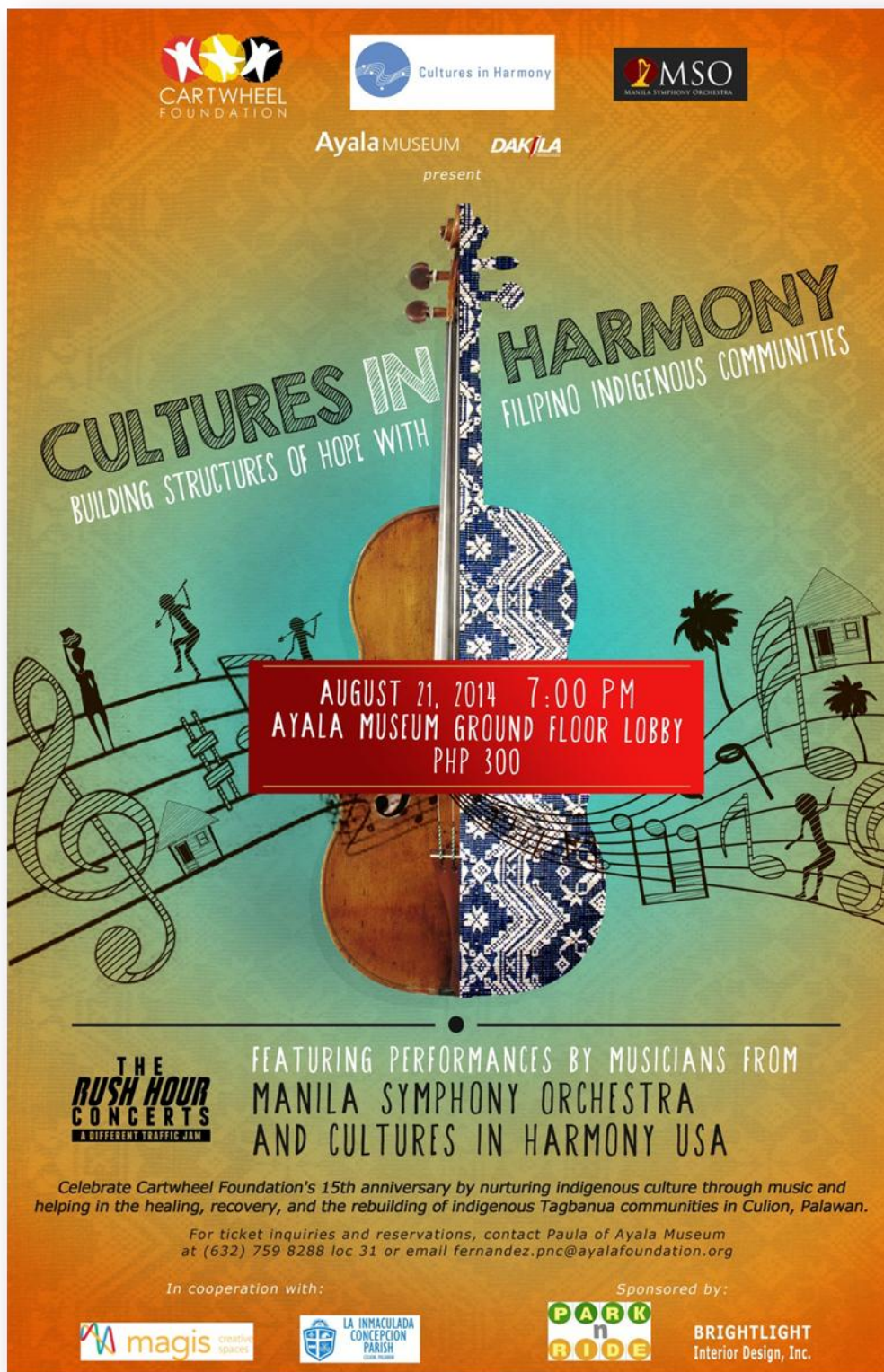
Hope abounds throughout the *Tagbanua* communities as they continue to rebuild their homes after the typhoon. More than strengthening the structures within their islands, they have been inspiring courage in each other with the help of friends from near and far. Music has powerfully ignited that inspiration.

Indeed, beautiful and joyous things can happen when people come together for a common cause. It is through the collective effort of many – *for* and *with* our indigenous brothers and sisters — that we are able to live out the true essence of *cultures in harmony*.

Cartwheel Foundation, Inc.

218 Unit F Malinao St., Brgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
+632.584-1532 | action@cartwheelfoundation.org | <http://www.cartwheelfoundation.org>

**Appendix A
PROMOTIONAL POSTER**



CARTWHEEL FOUNDATION **Cultures in Harmony** **MSO**
MANILA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ayala MUSEUM **DAKILA**
present

CULTURES IN HARMONY
BUILDING STRUCTURES OF HOPE WITH
FILIPINO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 21, 2014 7:00 PM
AYALA MUSEUM GROUND FLOOR LOBBY
PHP 300

THE RUSH HOUR CONCERTS
A DIFFERENT TRAFFIC JAM

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY MUSICIANS FROM
MANILA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
AND CULTURES IN HARMONY USA

Celebrate Cartwheel Foundation's 15th anniversary by nurturing Indigenous culture through music and helping in the healing, recovery, and the rebuilding of indigenous Tagbanua communities in Culion, Palawan.

For ticket inquiries and reservations, contact Paula of Ayala Museum at (632) 759 8288 loc 31 or email fernandez.pnc@ayalafoundation.org

In cooperation with: **magis** creative spaces **LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION PARISH** CULION, PALAWAN

Sponsored by: **PARK n RIDE** **BRIGHTLIGHT** Interior Design, Inc.

Appendix B CONCERT BANNER



Appendix C PROGRAMME SOUVENIR

Exterior Pages

PRESENTED BY

CARTWHEEL FOUNDATION, INC. Founded in 1999, Cartwheel has been nurturing indigenous Filipino heritage through relevant education. It was established in response to the Tala-andig elders' request to put up an early childhood school for the youth of Marayon, Bukidnon. Cartwheel has now produced 458 pre-school learners from Bukidnon, Nueva Ecija, Agusan del Sur, and Palawan; 177 adult learning graduates; and 54 young leaders, collectively impacting over 11,000 Indigenous Peoples all over the Philippines.

CULTURES IN HARMONY. Cultures in Harmony forges connections across cultural and national barriers through music. CIH has travelled to different countries such as Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Moldova, Turkey, Pakistan, and the Philippines, and has partnered with organizations such as UNICEF and Cartwheel Foundation to help in highlighting various advocacies and to bring people together through the shared process of creating music.

MANILA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Currently one of the most vibrant and active symphony in the Philippines, the Manila Symphony Orchestra has helped create a thriving musical environment in Metro Manila and has been a musical contributor to bringing attention to Filipino excellence in the field of classical music.

IN COOPERATION WITH

AYALA MUSEUM. The Ayala Museum has been committed to showcasing overseas collections and situating Philippine contemporary art in the global arena in a two-way highway of mutual cooperation and exchange with local and international associates.


DAKILA FOUNDATION. Dakila is a group of artists, students, and young professionals creatively inspiring involvement in social transformation. Dakila believes in the power of art to educate and inspire involvement towards building a nation of heroes.

MAGIS CREATIVE SPACES. MAGIS ("Make Art that Gives Inspires and Shapes the world") is collaborative of providers who believe that social transformation begins with the holistic development and wellness of every individual. It exists as a Center for enrichment education and healing through creative therapies within The Learning Child School campus, promoting psychosocial, physical and mental wellness, creative growth, and service through leadership.

SPONSORED BY

PARK N RIDE, INC. Park N Ride is a local company that develops intermodal transportation terminals in Metro Manila. Known as the "Sakayan ng Bayan," it seeks to provide efficient and safe transport facility for Filipino commuters.


BRIGHTLIGHT INTERIOR DESIGN, INC. Founded in 1999, Brightlight specializes in providing finishing works and furniture interiors for major residential and commercial developments in the Philippines.



CULTURES IN HARMONY
BUILDING STRUCTURES OF HOPE WITH FILIPINO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

CONCERT PROGRAMME
AUGUST 21, 2014 AYALA MUSEUM GROUND FLOOR LOBBY

Interior Pages




NURTURING HOPE AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Building on the legacy of a strong partnership since 2006, Cultures in Harmony (CIH) and Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) worked hand in hand again this month to inspire hope in the Tagbanua communities in Culion, Palawan affected by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

CIH has been supporting CFI's post-disaster efforts in the recovery of their partner communities through a learning exchange workshop between American and Tagbanua musicians facilitated last August 13-17, 2014 in Culion, Palawan. CIH and CFI are one in encouraging the Tagbanua to find strength in the richness of their own traditional music and culture.

Tonight's concert is in culmination of this most recent joint project between CIH and CFI. It is with much gratitude that these organizations work with their collaborating partners: Manila Symphony Orchestra, Ayala Museum, Magis Creative Spaces, and Dakila.

Beyond making music, coming together has become a hopeful celebration of cultures in harmony.



PROGRAM

Introduction

Part I String Quartet
Quintet for Horns and Strings
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Part II In Twilight
Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us
Goldberg variations
Quartet for horns and strings

Part III Sitsiritsit
Malinak Lay Labi
Rondino
Ikaw ang Mahal Ko

Part IV Romance for Cello and strings
Sa Ugoy ng Duyan
Hating Gabi

Closing Message

Learn how to help in bringing relevant education to our indigenous brothers and sisters.
Visit www.cartwheelfoundation.org/
www.facebook.com/CartwheelFoundation or contact
(02) 584 1532 / action@cartwheelfoundation.org

