

FROM SINGING TO TEACHING

by:

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“So, I say thank you for the music the songs I’m singing. Thanks for all the joy they’re bringing. Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty? What will I be? Without a song of dance what are we? So, I say thank you for the music for giving it to me” (lines taken from the song of ABBA, Thank you For the Music)

From the moment I was conceived, up to this very day that I am writing this essay, I believe music runs in my blood, fulfilling my life and satisfying the deepest part of my soul. I may not be the best musician or the celebrity in the field of music, but in my own niche, I was able to receive a lot of beautiful blessings that come within this wonderful talent my Creator has bestowed in me, His music.

In their own simple way, my parents were musically inclined. Our home was always filled with songs. My late father Romeo was a very good guitarist while my mother Elena was and still a church singer. They were a tandem especially in rendering the classic Kundiman songs. But their lives and music were much exposed in church activities. They were Cursillistas. At my early age, my parents often brought me to many Cursillio sessions, and I too was tasked to sing. That was my first involvement in church activity.

Economically, our family was so poor. My parents did earn a living through farming. There were even times we had nothing to eat. One thing I admire with my parents, especially with my late mother, was her devotion to the holy mass despite our hardships, trials, and seemingly never-ending poverty then. In fact, my father died

because we had nothing to support for his medications. From them, I learned the value of faith in God.

During my teenage years, amateur singing contest was the trend in many barrio fiestas. Though I didn't really want to join in such contest because of stage fright and shyness, yet my mother kept on pushing me. I knew then that we badly needed the price, so I obeyed. There were times that I won, there were times that I lose. Well, that's the reality of any contest. Later did I realize that the joining of amateur singing contest became my training ground. Since then, I never got shy again to sing in front of many people. Although fear and nervousness were still there, I became confident. In fact, during my college days, I became one of the crooners in many entertainment establishments in Balanga such as Michelle International Cuisine, Joyous Resort and Restaurant and Louis resort and restaurant. Working student as I may say, my earnings during that time were so valuable that I was able to help my family and finished my studies. Not to mention of course, the help of school scholarship and foundation who also supported my studies.

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My post - college life was an exciting singing career for me. Entertainment became my line of work. Aside from having night schedules in different restaurants, I was also visible in many events such as weddings, birthdays, reunions, and where singing performances were needed. I met different kinds of people. I earned and saved a lot till I was able to construct a simple house for my family. I even went in some places outside Bataan and abroad just to work and sing. For 8 straight years, that professional singing experiences were so memorable, fun, and full of learnings.

Until one day, God made me realized that the singing career I was heading was not forever and for good. So, while still working as a singer, I've decided to turn and focus my attention in pursuing another profession - TEACHING. I took education units, enjoyed my practice teaching and while waiting for the board exam results, my singing stint continued. Untill one night, in one of my performances in a restaurant in Mariveles

Bataan, I finally met a man who eventually captured my heart. Seeing so much sincerity in him and love for me, I believed then that after all the years waiting for Mr. Right to come, he was God's given. After almost two years of smooth sailing relationship, we took our wedding vows in the parish where I spiritually grew up.

I am currently employed in the Public High School for 10 years now as of the writing of this reflection. The mission and my vocation are so fulfilling. I may not be a perfect and excellent teacher as others may expect me to be, but I love my students. In my prayers they are included, hoping through the grace of God, I can touch their lives that will lead them to a more meaningful and spiritually filled future.

Gone are the days of the glory of claps, praises, smiles, and admiration after every singing performance I made on stage. But the joy, satisfaction and lessons learned will forever be treasure in my heart and in my mind.

A teacher I am now, and yes, I do love it, yet my passion for music remains but only this time together with my students. I taught them to sing not just for everybody's amusement but to sing for the Lord as well. Through God's grace, and the permission of our dearest principal, our monthly masses at school became possible.

I am not trying to sound so holy because I am not. I have many weaknesses too. But indeed, in every person's story, God's way of loving me is never ending, and so the honor and glory is in Him.

References:

Genius.com (ND). Thank You for the Music: ABBA Track 7. Retrieved from <https://genius.com/Abba-thank-you-for-the-music-lyrics>