

November 22, 1968
PHILIPPINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PHILIPPINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS STAMPS
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November 22 is a special day commemorated in the world of music as St. Cecilia's Day, Patroness of Music. Coinciding with this day, the Bureau of Posts today, issues a set of stamps featuring Philippine Musical Instruments, not only as a fitting remembrance of St. Cecilia's Day, but also to give to the nation and to the world a lasting record of four of the musical instruments that are a pride of the Philippines.

Beautifully captured on a set of stamps, measuring 28x42 mm, horizontally composed, are the kudyapi, the ludag, the kulintang and the subing.

The stamps were designed jointly by Philatelic Artists Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. and Antonio Chuidian, Jr., printed by heliogravure process in four colors by the Government Printing Bureau of Tokyo, Japan, in denominations of 10, 20, 30 and 50 centavos, in quantities of two million each of the 10, 20, and 30 centavos denominations and five million of the 50 centavos denomination.

When the Spaniards arrived in the Islands, the early Filipinos already had their musical instruments which were used for entertainment.

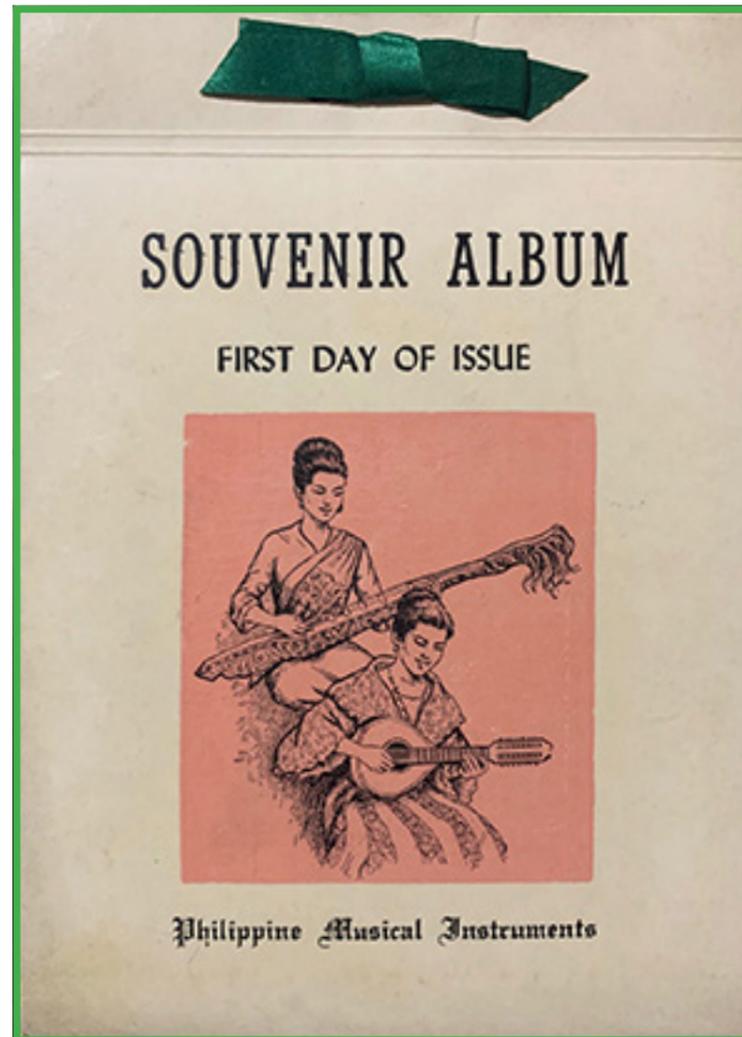
According to Pigafetta, they were amazed to see the natives already having an established culture in the line of music. He reported having seen in Cebu, during the fiesta (party) offered by a kin of the King of the Island of Cebu, four young women who "played so harmoniously that one would believe they possessed good musical sense."

From among the old native instruments have been especially chosen the following to be featured on this set of special stamps: -

The Kudyapi - is made of wood and resembles an elongated guitar usually having two strings. It is played like a cello: and so at its lower end it has a sort of support. It varies in size. Generally, it is about one and a half meters long. Nods are placed on the fingerboard for changing the tones of the strings. It is the ancient violin of the Visayan peoples. Today, it is the home instrument in Cotabato and Sulu.

The Ludag - is the drum of the Apayaws. The actual length of the drum is about one meter and a half. It is made of wood hallowed in its whole length, its lower end being closed. It is played by having it laid on the laps of the performer. The diameter of the head is about 30 centimeters.

The Kulintang - is a graduated gong the sets of which have a range from one and a half to two octaves. Sometimes, there are eight gongs in a set. The usual size is about one meter long. It is used in Sulu.



The Subing - is a Jaw's harp made of bamboo. The subing presents a great variety in shapes and names according to the regions where it is used. It is made of a piece of bamboo, one end of which is cut off so as to leave a projecting tongue. The tongue when struck causes the movement of an inside split of the same piece of bamboo, the end of which split being in front of a concavity and free to move across a small longitudinal hole along sides of said split, causes the vibration of the air through the small long opening. It is about 40 centimeters long. It is played by striking to and fro and with the right thumb the projecting tongue, and placing the instrument horizontally in between the lips precisely at the concavity where the end of the interior split moves.

The mouth of the performer thus serves as the resounder of the instrument which may produce some limited melody by increasing or decreasing the force of air blown through the said concavity; and also by projecting or withdrawing the lips accordingly but without separating from the instrument.

The Filipino Band Masters Association headed by its President, Mr. Hilarion Rubio, was responsible for enlisting the support of the Bureau of Posts to have this colorful set of stamps printed and issued for posterity.

