

Mahal na Likha

Songs from the Philippines



Fiona De Vos

Introduction

Mahal na Likha (Beloved Creation): Songs from the Philippines

This album—this music—is about love. Love for a partner, love for family and friends, love for one's native land, divine love. Love that pulses softly within every being—so gentle and yet so powerful. Love that connects all, unites all, gives life to all. Pure, deep, unconditional Love.

Some of the songs in this album belong to a class of love songs known as the Kundiman. Kundiman stems from the phrase *kung hindi man* or “should it not be so.” As an art song, it has a special characteristic form, which generally starts in a minor key, lending it an air of melancholy, and then transmutes into a major key, expressing the other side of the coin, the joy of love and hope. One finds within the Kundiman both longing and bliss, both suffering and comfort, both heartache and love.

In the late 19th century, at a time when the Philippines was fighting for freedom from Spain's colonial rule, when Filipino revolutionaries could not openly express what was burning in their hearts, the Kundiman served as a vehicle for expressing love for one's motherland.

Now, more than a century later, as we live in a world where national, cultural and other boundaries are falling away, may we all find and experience freedom from separation. May we, through a revolution of love, realize who we truly are. May Love be awakened in all beings. Boundless, all-encompassing, all-pervading Love.



Malinak La'y Labi

Music: Julian Velasco / Arrangement: Aries Caces / Text: Julian Velasco / Translation: Rhodora dela Peña and Fiona De Vos

Malinak la'y labi
Oras la'y mareen
Mapalpalna'y dagem
Katekep to'y linaew
Samit da'y kugip ko
Binangonan kon tampol
Lapu'd say limgas mo
Sikan sika'y amamayoen

*Deep is the night
The hour, quiet
Gentle is the wind
Infused with dew
Sweet is my dream
At once, I arose
Because of your purity
I will hold you with utmost care*

Lalo la bilay
No sika la'y nanengneng
Napunas lan amin
So ermen ya akbibiten
No nanonotan ko
La'y samit da'y ugalim
Ag ta ka nalingwanan
Angga'd kauyos na bilay

*My life
When it's you I see
All grief I bear
Is wiped away
When I remember
The sweetness of your ways
I will never forget you
Until life ends*

Iyo Kailan Pa Man

Music: Angel M. Peña / Text: Levi Celerio / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Sa alaala ko'y nagbabalik
Ang araw ng ating pag-ibig
Buhay nati'y panaginip
Sa gilid ng munting batis

*It comes back to memory
The days of our love
Our life was a dream
By the small spring*

Ang pagsintang dalisay
Ay di mamamatay

*Pure love
Will never die*

Ang mga labi mong sakdal tamis
Ay may pangakong hanggang langit:
»Mamahalin kong lagi'y ikaw
Sa ginhawa't hapis«

*Your lips that were so sweet
Had a promise to the heavens:
»You're the one I will always love
In comfort and in distress«*

Ngunit nagdaan ang araw
Sumpa mo'y nalimot
Naghihintay sa kalungkutan
Ang puso ko, Irog

*But the days passed
Your vow has been forgotten
My heart is waiting
In sadness, my Love*

Nahan ang tanging pagmamahal
Bakit dagling natapos
Kailan ko muling makakamtan
Tunay mong pag-irog

*Where is the special love
Why did it end so soon
When will I feel
Your true love once more*

Ang buhay kong namamanglaw
Ay nais nang pumanaw
Kung hindi ka kaulayaw
Langit ko'y walang tanglaw

*My life in loneliness
Wants to end now
If you're not here with me
My sky has no light*

Kung babalik ka, Hirang
At ako'y lalapitan
Pusong iyo nang minsan
Ay iyo kailan pa man

*If you would only come back, my Love
And come close to me
My heart that was once yours
Is yours forever*

Nahan

Music: Ernani J. Cuenco / Text: Levi Celerio / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Di ba sabi mo'y kay ganda ng lahat
Kulay rosas pa ang mga bulaklak
Tila sa akin ay ayaw kang magtapat
Yan ba ang sabi mong pag-ibig ay wagas

Ang iyong ngiti dati ay kay tamis
Pag ikaw at ako ay nagkakatapit
Nahan ang yakap mong dati ay mahigpit
At ang ligaya kong matamis mong halik

*Didn't you say everything was so beautiful
And the flowers were the color of roses
It seems you don't want to tell me the truth
Is that what you once said, that love is pure*

*Your smile used to be so sweet
When you and I came close to each other
Where is your embrace that used to be tight
And my joy that was your sweet kiss*

Jocelynang Baliwag

›Kundiman of the Revolution‹

Music: Anonymous / Arrangement: Fiona De Vos / Text: Anonymous / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Pinopong sinta niring kaluluwa
Nakakawangis mo'y mabangong sampaga
Dalisay sa linis, dakila sa ganda
Matimyas na bukal ng madlang ligaya

Edeng maligayang kinaluluklukan
Ng galak at tuwang katamis-tamisan
Tala kang maningning na ang matunghaya'y
Masam'yong bulaklak agad sumisikal

*Revered beloved of this soul
You resemble fragrant jasmines
Immaculate in its purity, great in its beauty
Genuine spring of all joy*

*Happy Eden that is the seat of honor
Of joy and happiness of utmost sweetness
You are a radiant star, whose gaze makes
Sweet-smelling flowers grow at once*

Kundiman

Music: Francisco Santiago | Text: Deogracias A. Rosario | Translation: Fiona De Vos

Ako'y anak ng dalita
At tigib ng luha
Ang naritong humihibik
Na bigyan ng awa
Buksan mo ang langit
At kusa mong pakinggan
Ang aking ligalig
Saka pagdaramdam

*I'm a child of misery
And overflowing with tears
The one pleading here
To be given mercy
Open the heavens
And listen intently
To my troubles
And feelings*

Ay kung hindi ka mahahabag
Sa lungkot kong dinaranas
Puso't diwang nabibihag
Sa libing masasadlak
Magtanong ka kung di tunay
Sa kislap ng mga tala
Magtanong ka rin sa ulap
Ng taglay kong dalita

*Oh, if you won't feel any compassion
For the sadness I'm going through
Captivated heart and soul
Would fall into the grave
Ask if it's not true
Ask the twinkle of the stars
Also ask the clouds
Of the misery I have*

Sa dilim ng gabing
Aking nilalamay
Tanging larawan mo
Ang nagiging ilaw
Kung ikaw ay mahimbing
Sa gitna ng dilim
Ay iyong ihulog
Puso mo sa akin

*In the darkness of the night
On which I'm keeping vigil
Only your image
Is my light
If you would fall in deep sleep
In the midst of the darkness
Oh, let your heart
Fall down to me*

Ang iyong ihulog
Buhay, pag-asa, pag-asa

*Let it fall to me
Life, hope, hope*

Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak

Music: Leopoldo Silos / Text: Levi Celerio / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Dahil sa isang bulaklak
Sumilang ang pag-ibig
Bawa't tibok ng kanyang puso
Ay luha at paghihirap
Puso'y sadyang nagtiis
Nagdusa sa pag-ibig
Di magbabago kailanman
Ang pagmamahal
Yan ang pag-ibig
Dahil sa isang bulaklak

*Because of a flower
Love was born
Each beat of its heart
Is a teardrop and suffering
The heart consciously endured
Suffered in love
This devotion
Will never change
That's love
Because of a flower*

Ugoy ng Duyan

Music: Lucio San Pedro / Text: Levi Celerio / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Sana'y di nagmaliw ang dati kong araw
Nang munti pang bata sa piling ni Nanay
Nais ko'y maulit ang awit ni Inang mahal
Awit ng pag-ibig habang ako'y nasa duyan

*I wish the old days hadn't ended
When I was a small child, by Mom's side
I wish I could hear my beloved mother's song again
Her song of love while I was in the cradle*

Sa aking pagtulog na labis ang himbing
Ang bantay ko'y tala, ang tanod ko'y bituin
Sa piling ni Nanay, langit ang buhay
Puso kong may dusa'y sabik sa ugoy ng duyan

*In my very deep sleep
The stars guard and watch over me
With Mom, life was heaven
My suffering heart longs for the rocking of the cradle*

Ibig kong matulog sa dating duyan ko, Inang

I would love to sleep in my old cradle, Mom

Madaling-Araw

Music: Francisco Santiago / Arrangement: Armin Egger / Text: Jose Corazon de Jesus /

Translation: Fiona De Vos

Irog ko'y dinggin ang tibok ng puso
Sana'y damdamin hirap ng sumuyo
Manong itunghay ang matang mapungay
Na siyang tanging ilaw ng buhay kong papanaw

Sa gitna ng kadimlan magmadaling-araw ka
At ako ay lawitan ng habag at pagsinta
Kung ako'y mamamatay sa lungkot nyaring buhay
Lumapit ka lang, lumapit ka lang, at mabubuhay

At kung magkagayon, Mutya
Mapalad na ang buhay ko
Magdaranas ako ng t'wa nang dahil sa iyo
Madaling-araw ka, Sintá, liwanag ko't tanglaw
Halina, irog ko, at mahalín mo ako

Mutya'y mapalad na ang buhay ko
Nang dahilan sa ganda mo
Liwayway ng puso ko't tanglaw
Halina, irog ko, at mahalín mo ako

Manungaw ka, Liyag, ilaw ko't pangarap
At madaling-araw na!

*My beloved, listen to the beating of my heart
I wish you'd understand the hardship of courting
Please raise your peaceful eyes
Which are the only light of my life that's ending*

*In the middle of the darkness, dawn upon me
And grant me compassion and love
If I should die of this life's sorrow
Come to me, just come to me, and I would live again*

*And if that should happen, Beloved,
My life would then be fortunate
I would feel joy because of you
You are dawn, Beloved, my light and illumination
Come, my dearest, and love me*

*Beloved, my life would now be fortunate
Because of your beauty
Dawn and light of my heart
Come, my dearest, and love me*

*Look out of the window, Darling, my light and dream
As it is now dawn!*

Mutya ng Pasig

Music: Nicanor Abelardo | Text: Deogracias A. Rosario | Translation: Fiona De Vos

Kung gabing ang buwan
Sa langit ay nakadungaw
Tila ginigising ng habagat
Sa kanyang pagtulog sa tubig
Ang isang larawang puti at busilak
Na lugay ang buhok na animoy agos
Ito ang Mutya ng Pasig
Ito ang Mutya ng Pasig

Sa kanyang pagsiklot sa maputing bula
Kasabay ang awit, kasabay ang tula

»Dati akong paraluman
Sa kaharian ng pag-ibig
Ang pag-ibig ng mamatay
Naglaho rin ang kaharian
Ang lakas ko ay nalipat
Sa puso't dibdib ng lahat
Kung nais ninyong ako'y mabuhay
Pag-ibig ko'y inyong ibigay«

»Kung nais ninyong ako'y mabuhay
Pag-ibig ko'y muling ibigay«

*When at night, the moon
In the sky is watching
Seemingly being awakened by the west wind
From its sleep in the water
An image, white and immaculate,
With hair hanging loose like flowing water
This is the Pearl of the Pasig
This is the Pearl of the Pasig*

*Tossing about in the white foam
In unison with the song, with the poem*

*»I was once a muse
In the kingdom of love
When love died
The kingdom also disappeared
My power moved
To the hearts and bosoms of everyone
If you want me to live
Give my love«*

*»If you want me to live
Give my love again«*

Kung Batid Mo Lamang

Music: Restie Umali / Text: Levi Celerio / Translation: Fiona De Vos

Kung batid mo lamang, naaalala ka
Sa lahat ng araw habang nag-iisa
Sa pagmamahal ko ay di ka mangangamba
At magtitiwala ka sa pagsinta

Kung batid mo lamang, ang dusa kong taglay
Sa patak ng luha na di mo lang alam
Di ko sasapitin ang magdanas ng lumbay
At maaawa ka kung batid mo lamang

*If only you knew, you are in my thoughts
On all days, when I'm alone
In my love, you would have nothing to fear
And you would have faith in my devotion*

*If only you knew my suffering
In the drops of tears, of which you are unaware
I would not be experiencing this sadness
And you would have pity, if only you knew*



Pakiusap

Music: Francisco Santiago | Text: Jose Corazon de Jesus | Translation: Fiona De Vos

Natutulog ka man
Irog kong matimtiman
Tunghayan mo man lamang
Ang nagpapaalam

*You may be asleep
My prudent beloved
But if you could only look
At the one who's leaving*

Dahan-dahan, Mutya
Buksan mo ang bintana
Tanawin mo't kahabagan
Ang sa 'yo'y nagmamahal

*Gently, Beloved
Open the window
Look and have pity
On the one who loves you*

Kung sakali ma't salat
Sa yama't pangarap
May isang sumpang wagas
Ang aking paglingap

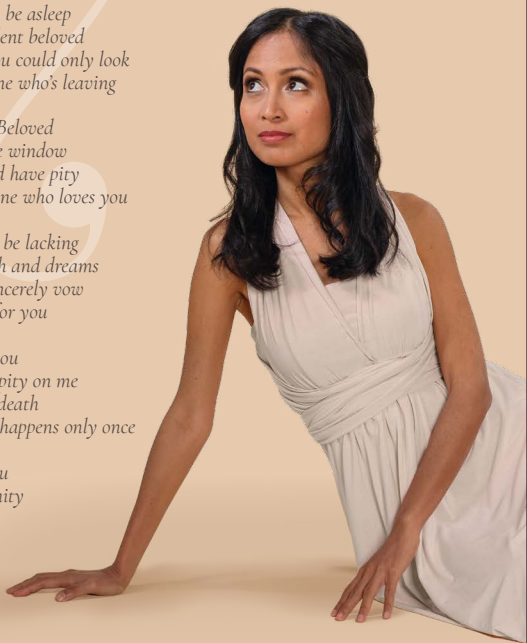
*Should I be lacking
In wealth and dreams
Still I sincerely vow
To care for you*

Pakiusap ko sa 'yo
Kaawaan mo ako
Kahit mamatay
Pag-ibig ko'y minsan lamang

*I plead you
To have pity on me
Even in death
My love happens only once*

Iniibig kita
Magpakailan pa man

*I love you
For eternity*



Bituing Marikit

Music: Nicanor Abelardo | Arrangement: Armin Egger | Text: Servando de los Angeles |

Translation: Fiona De Vos

Bituing Marikit sa gabi ng buhay
Ang bawa't kislap mo'y ligaya ang taglay
Yaring aking palad iyong patnubayan
At kahit na sinag ako'y bahaginan

Natanim sa puso ko yaong isang pag-ibig
Na pinakasasamba sa loob ng dibdib
Sa iyong luningning laging nasasabik
Ikaw ang pangarap, Bituing Marikit

Lapitan mo ako, hali na, Bituin
Ating pag-isahin ang mga damdamin
Ang sabik kong diwa'y huwag mong uhawin
Sa batis ng iyong wagas na paggiliw

*Beautiful Star in the evening of life
Your every twinkle carries joy
Guide this destiny of mine
And share with me even just a ray of light*

*This one love has been planted in my heart
That I most adore deep within my breast
I always long for your shining light
You are my dream, Beautiful Star*

*Come close to me, come, my Star
Let's make our feelings one
Don't make my longing soul thirsty
In the spring of your pure love*

Acknowledgements

Thank you...

Michael Hecht

for being a great producer, coach, advisor, composer and more, and for everything you've taught me, not just musically but also in matters of business and life in general.

Lisa Punz

for the masterful video production, and for your many valuable contributions, your artistic and business talents, knowledge and ideas.

Aries Caces

for the wonderful piano playing, arranging and coaching.

Armin Egger

for the beautiful guitar playing and arranging.

Anna Maurer

for being a wonderful stylist, and for helping me reconnect with my locker unkompliziert (easy-going uncomplicated) and feminine side.

Chiara Martyka

for your beautiful art and insights.

Martin Lifka

for the great photography.

Katharina Henríquez

for the lovely violin playing.

Werner Lager

for the excellent mastering.

Jakob Flosdorff, Pavol Kutik, Fatima Gerendas

Obiols and Patrick Walter

for the great work.

Everyone mentioned above

for everything that you have contributed to this project, for your dedication to your craft, attention to detail, eye for aesthetics, energy, sense of humor, and kindness, which have made this project a joy to do and a rich learning experience.

Rhodora dela Peña

for helping me with the Pangasinan translation and pronunciation.

Gina, Janson, Kim, Okāsan (Yasuko), Giordano,

Chika, Sandra, Kuya Ome, Ate Shirley, Melly,

and all my beloved friends

for your love, friendship and support.

Riki

for the love, friendship and encouragement, for the sheet music, and for giving me wonderful opportunities to sing.

Kuya JR, Elvira, Raphael, Romano, Mary, Iah, Alfred, Ma, Da, Kuya Bay, Nin Jona, Jen, Mommy Dors, Daddy Rit, Puccini, Lola, Tito Tom, Tita Roce, Tito Val, Tita Carina, and the rest of my greater family

for your love and support, and for being there no matter what.

Jaan

for the love and inspiration, for everything you've taught me, and for the deep soul connection.

Fre

for your love, support and understanding, for being a great husband, my best friend, my rock and anchor, for being with me through thick and thin, and for everything.

Credits

Vocals and Arrangements: Fiona De Vos

Piano and Arrangements: Aries Caces

Guitar and Arrangements: Armin Egger

Violin: Katharina Henríquez

Produced by: Fiona De Vos and Michael Hecht

Recorded, Mixed and Mastered by: Michael Hecht, Werner Lager

Production Assistants: Jakob Flosdorff, Pavol Kutik

Editing: Fatima Gerendas Obiols, Patrick Walter

Graphic Design and Artwork: Chiara I. Martyka

Photography: Martin Lifka

Styling and Make-up Artist: Anna Maurer

Video Production: Lisa Punz/Frog Queen Media

©+© 2018 Fiona De Vos. All Rights Reserved.

fionadevos.net

learningtagalog.com

