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

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

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

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 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

Ang pagsintang dalisay
Ay di mamamatay

Pure love
Will never die

Pure love
Will never die
Nahan


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

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

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

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‹


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let it fall to me
Life, hope, hope
Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak

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

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

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
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
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-awraw ka
At ako ay lawitan ng habag at pagsinta
Kung ako’y mamamataay 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-awraw ka, Sinta, liwanag ko’t tanglaw
Halina, irog ko, at mahalin mo ako

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

Manungaw ka, Liyag, ilaw ko’t pangarap
At madaling-awraw 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!
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

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

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

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

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

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
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Piano and Arrangements: Aries Caces
Guitar and Arrangements: Armin Egger
Violin: Katharina Henríquez

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