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St. Scholastica features Mariel y Juan, violin-piano duo



**VIOLIN-PIANO duo Mariel Illusorio
and husband Juan Luiz Muñoz**

The VIOLIN-PIANO duo partnership of Mariel Illusorio and Juan Luis Muñoz was formed in 2005. Both artists have vast experience performing in Europe, South America and South Africa, where they're based. They have organized their own chamber music series at South Africa's Rhodes University, titled "Juan, Mariel and Friends." They teach and live in Grahamstown with their one-year-old daughter, Anita Mariel.

Illusorio began playing the piano at an early age and continued her musical studies through various scholarships, earning her pre-college diploma from the Juilliard School in New York and her bachelor of music from the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. She then traveled to Germany, where she studied in the Hanover State Academy, obtaining her masteral and doctoral degrees in Piano Performance. She lived there for 10 years. In 2000, she won first prize in the 9th Carlo Soliva International Music Competition in Italy.

Illusorio regularly returns to the Philippines to do outreach concert tours and master classes. She has recorded two CDs of solo piano music.

Muñoz has lived in South Africa for the past 18 years, playing an active role in that country's musical life. Born in Santiago, Chile, he studied under Prof. Fernando Ansaldi and Prof. Sergio Prieto at the Catholic University of Santiago, Chile. There he was concert master of the University Symphony Orchestra. He toured Chile, Argentina and Peru, as soloist and concert master of the Mineduc orchestra. He moved to South Africa as sub-principal violinist of the Capab orchestra. He has performed in numerous concerts as leader of the Johannesburg Philaharmonic Orchestra, Johannesburg Music Institute and Cape Town Baroque Ensemble, which he founded.

The duo combines Muñoz's vast experience as a conductor and chamber musician, and Illusorio's musical training and exceptional musicality. There is a unique union of different backgrounds and influences producing an exciting and artistic combinations: Mariel y Juan.

The Battig Music Foundation presents "Mariel y Juan" on November 29, 7pm at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. The concert's proceeds will be for the benefit of the St. Scholastica's music scholars. For inquiries, call 526-8080.