

School marks centenary with musical performances

Do not be surprised to find a violinist serenading you as you wait for the next train on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) station. Instead, listen and enjoy the melody that soothes away the stress from the usual urban noise. This is just one of Saint Scholastica's College (SSC) School of Music's way to foster and spread the love for music as it celebrates its centennial year.

For College Dean Sister Mary Placid, OSB, this is the perfect time to go beyond the halls of the school to reach more people with their music.

"The society has changed. We cannot just stick to the tradition of classical music which is played within the halls. We have to be socially relevant," Sister Mary Placid said.

The dean chairs the music

centennial organizing committee of SSC's School of Music. She recognizes the fact that people are so busy nowadays to even include music in their lives.

"People nowadays can't go to the hall. It could be the distance, it could be the lack of time or money. We're doing this to reach out to people. We want them to experience good music, classical music, even for just a short while," Sister

Mary Placid said.

She added that performers will be able to talk to the commuters as they enjoy the music.

"[The musicians] can have conversations with them to get them to love music, so they would realize that there is more to music than just entertainment," Sister Mary Placid said.

Aside from classical gigs at select LRT stations and schools

along the LRT, musicians from St. Scholastica are also going outside Manila for concert tours. They will perform in schools to expose young children to classical music.

Performances at the LRT and its vicinity, as well as concert tours are scheduled starting next month after the formal opening of the School of Music Centennial Celebration last week.

In April, the School of Music is holding a Helen Quach Concert with the Manila Symphony Orchestra, and a concert and workshop titled *Music for the People* are set for May.

SSC will also launch a music exhibit called "100 Years of Music" in August, followed by the groundbreaking for the Music Building by September, and a tree-planting activity in October.

Another concert will be held also in October to remember Sister Baptista Battig, the German concert pianist who started giving piano lessons when she arrived in the Philippines in Oct. 1, 1907. Sister Baptista established the St. Cecilia Hall as an important venue for concerts as she headed the School of Music for 34 years.

Sister Baptista made it a mission to enrich the musical life of Saint Scholastica and its vicinity during her time. Today, younger generations of musicians continue to live and play music for her legacy.

"Music goes beyond performance. We perform with excellence and skills but we have to reach out to others," Sister Mary Placid said. "It can be a rich experience if you know how to go about it."