SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007

Sundry Strokes

By ROSALINDA L. OROSA

IC's duo recital



The latest IC recital was of singular appeal because one rarely hears a cello-guitar duo, and even more rarely a British cellist and a Spanish guitarist playing together. Cellist Michael Jones and guitarist Agustin Maruri once performed jointly in Madrid, and since then have become such a distinguished duo that eminent composers now write expressly for them.

The program opened with a four-movement sonata (arr. Maruri) by Vivaldi — known as the Paganini of the 18th century — and Schubert's romantic Sonate Arpeggione, its poignant lyricism marked occasionally by prosaic content. In both pieces, Maruri was a virtual accompanist but an excellent one.

Canto del Pajaro by former Ambassador Delfin Colomé did not in any way evoke bird song with its innovative and alternate devices of plucking and strumming, and its rhythmic verve.

There was an almost even interplay in the Spanish compositions, Jones and Maruri each conveying, in varying degrees, the fire, passion and color of Spain: Elegance and stately grace, melodic flow, rhythmic nuances and dance movements in Granados; exquisite melancholy in Albeniz; arresting rhythms, sensuous melodies, poetic beauty in De Falla. The eloquent dialogue was a magnificent tribute to Spain's leading composers including Tarrega.

Present were IC Director Jose Rodriguez, Jose Ma. Fons and Clarissa Lukban.