



Asian

Village

Zine

A publication by Asian Music for Peoples' Peace and Progress (AMP3)

October 2023

Asian Village Zine



Our Village Zine

AMP3 is a collective of artists across Asia, working together to build a community, share and promote people's music, and support local struggles.

Asian Village zine is our community's JOURNAL chronicling the comings and the goings in and around our progressive music circles;

it's our COMMON CALENDAR and COMMUNITY BILLBOARD, highlighting our key activities and events;

The zine is our BULLHORN, amplifying the calls of communities and their struggles for rights and freedoms;

It's our FREEDOM WALL, where we post our photos, artworks, sketches, graffitis, slogans;

It is a SAFE SPACE, for artists to share random thoughts, reflections, insights, rants, opinions on anything and everything about people's music and our society.

On this first issue, we share songs written by members from Cambodia and Myanmar, and an album written and produced by members in the Philippines. Each of them depicts specific experiences in their respective countries, but also paint images of struggles familiar to all of us in the Southeast Asian region.

Asian Village Zine Team

Editor-in-chief: Rai Javier

Managing Editor: Dania Reyes

Coordinators:

Joseph Purugganan

Bong Ramilo

Jess Santiago

Messenger Band

Messenger Band is composed of women workers in the garment industry which grew from Womens' Agenda for Change (WAC)'s long engagement in the self-determination building among Cambodian garment workers.

WAC's approach has been to expose and conscientize women workers in order for them to fully participate and determine their paths as a collective to bring positive change. Their music also hopes to challenge gender stereotypes, discrimination, and violence in society

Their song, **Women Heroism**, is about women struggles and their heroism in fighting repression.



Photo taken during the concert Sama-Sama: Our Songs Our Struggles, held at the University Theater, UP Diliman, the culmination of the AMP3 regional conference in June 2023



illustrations by Max Santiago

Women Heroism

(translated to English from Khmer)

Try to breathe,

relax

hold your tears,

be strong, don't give up,

be patient, shoulder the burden,

try to challenge life's oppressions

This is the life of women activists

who struggle daily

from our pure hearts,

to cultivate ideas

and carry on with our commitment

to defend rights and freedom



Our heroism is everywhere,
never lose our way,
never lose ourselves in their traps
though we are threatened,
even when they detain our hearts and bodies
we won't regret it if we die for justice!

Customs, stereotypes,
society ties us down
and discriminates against women
but we never give up in any obstacles.
If we move on hand in hand,
We will never be alone.





Kyaw Lin

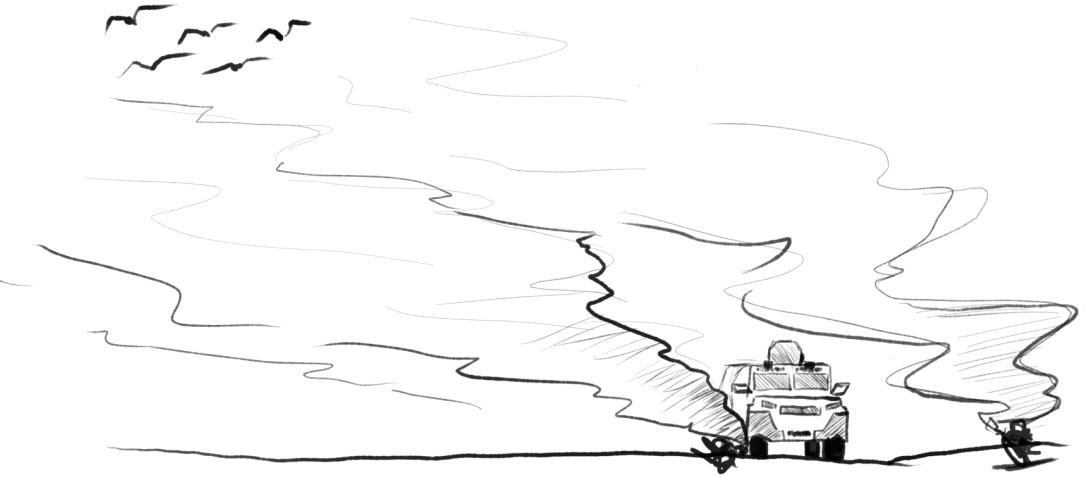
Kyaw Lin is a singer songwriter and animator who spearheads Arts for Civil Disobedience Movement (Arts4CDM) to support the ongoing pro-democratic movement in Myanmar. The goal of this project is to promote freedom of expression under dictatorship, using art and music to lift up the morale of the people during these trying times.

His song, Carry On, expresses solidarity with grassroots humanitarian organizations helping the people in the conflict areas.



Screen shot from the animated music video of "Carry On"

Carry On



There is battle raging

Killings, bombings, and burning

We'll find peace when these days are gone

We'll keep giving and caring

Help each other through everything

We'll find peace when these days are gone

Many times we've been knocked down

Get back up, turn it around

No matter what, we will carry on

We'll keep giving and caring

Help each other through everything

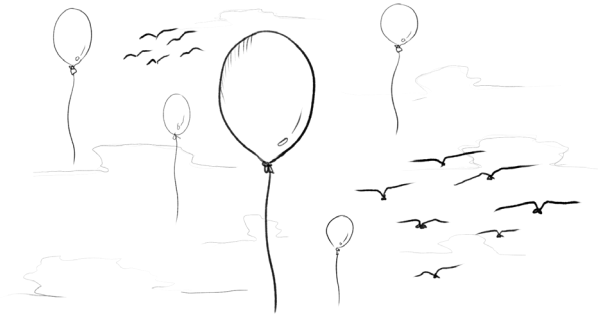
We'll find peace when these days are gone

There'll be better days ahead

We'll find peace everywhere

No matter what, we will carry on





Hey, golden days are waiting ahead of us
A chance for all of us to start again
To build a better place for all
We'll fight for our freedom
For peaceful existence for everyone

Pray for us dear mothers,
Pray for us dear fathers,
We'll be coming home safe
When our work is done.



About the illustrators

Max Santiago

Illustrator, Women Heroism

Max joined the political art group Ugatlahi Artist Collective while studying Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas in 1994. Since then, he has been involved with various grassroots people's organizations and initiatives. He was an editorial cartoonist for Manila Today and is currently affiliated with patriotic alliance BAYAN. As a visual artist, freedom of expression and press freedom are two causes he is most passionate about. In August 2023, the PNP filed pollution charges against him and three other BAYAN artists for the burning of his "Doble Kara" effigy during the People's SONA in July.

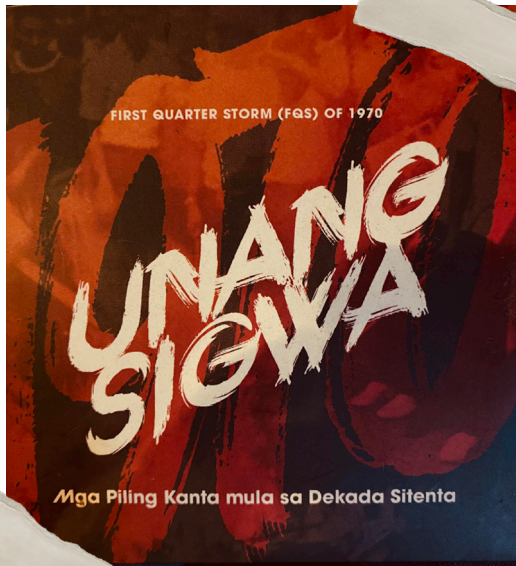
Joe Suobiron

Illustrator, Carry On

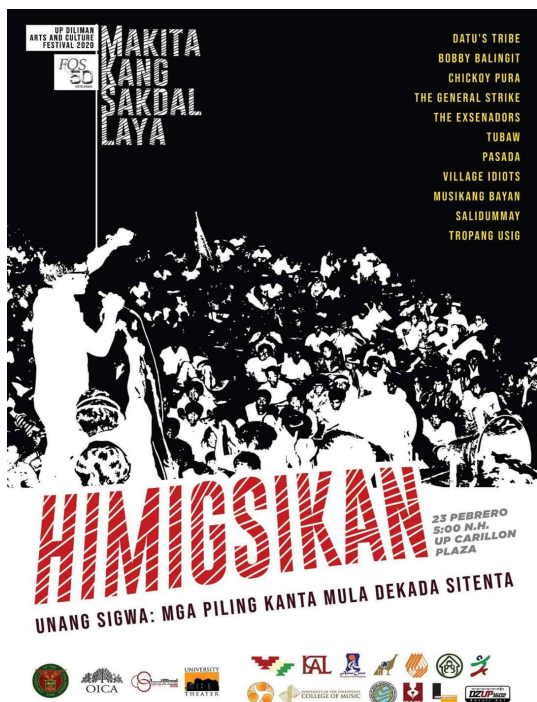
Joe, a trans non-binary activist and Sociology graduate, currently works at LILAK Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights, separately advocating for indigenous women and people of diverse SOGIE. Outside of their advocacy work, they usually spend their time gaming and immersing themselves in the arts, whether it be songwriting, singing, dancing, or drawing. Joe seldom creates artworks or takes art commissions, as they prefer dancing over other art forms as a means of self-expression. They strongly believe that their art style changes in tandem with both their mood and their perception of the world. While they may not be a full-time artist, for them, art undeniably plays a significant role in their life.

Featured Album

UNANG SIGWA: MGA PILING KANTA NG DEKADA SITENTA
FIRST QUARTER STORM: SELECT SONGS FROM THE 70's



The album is a collection of songs that served as anthems of the people's struggle against the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines in the 70's. The First Quarter Storm refers to the series of mostly-student led protests that happened between January- March of 1970, that sparked the continuing resistance against the political repression and authoritarianism under President Ferdinand Marcos. In September 2018, a project was initiated to get 12 artists/groups to re-work, reinterpret and give voice to these songs to present them to a new audience, under the context of increasing repression and human rights violations under the Duterte administration.



Among the artists who lent their voices to the project were Musikang Bayan, Pasada, General Strike, and Village Idiots. The album was produced by the FQS Movement, FQS@50 and the Surian ng Sining Institute in cooperation with the Tag-ani Performing Arts Society and Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP).

The album was launched in a concert Himigsikan, Unang Sigwa: Mga Piling kanta mula dekada sitenta at the UP Carillon Plaza of the University of the Philippines in February 2020.



Teaser video



Videos of performances
courtesy of the late Mon Ramirez

Our Songs, Our Struggles



In June 2023, AMP3 organized "Sama- Sama: Our Songs, Our Struggles," a music and social justice conference held in Manila, Philippines. It was an opportunity for Asian musicians to unite in their common goal of spreading messages of peace, love, and unity through their music.

Delegates from Cambodia, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Australia, and the Philippines shared their stories, experiences, and visions for strengthening a collective voice and inspiring social change. The musicians exchanged ideas and formed an action plan to create a stronger network of artists and human rights organizations.

For many of the musicians, their journey began with the recognition that their music could be a tool for change. The power of music to promote peace, kindness and social harmony is a universal concept that resonates with people from all over the world





and the artists at the event used their music and experiences to convey this message.

The musicians showcased their cultural involvement, socio political

situations and shared their music and learnings that could inspire change. Their performances were moving, and there was a sense of one humanity, one people, leading to a tangible hope in the air.

Overall, the gathering, with its dedication to social cohesion and inclusivity, was a significant milestone in a world that is becoming more consumerist and indifferent towards human lives. It's the hope that we will build more dialogue and call for action across Asia to build a better world for us all.

-Vedi Sinha, AMP3 member from India

About AMP3

AMP3 traces its history to the work of Jess Santiago in the early 80's. Jess was the coordinator of the cultural action program of Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD) from 1982-89 where he initiated network building activities and consultations among artists/cultural workers across the Asia Pacific region. ACFOD organized two regional consultations in 1986 and 1988 both held in Manila, which brought together artists from different disciplines (music, poetry, dance, theater, visual arts, film). These consultations resulted in the formation of an informal network of artists across the region.

In 2005, Jess was awarded an Asian Public Intellectual Fellowship grant by the Nippon foundation to do research and networking among musicians in the region. His API fellowship allowed Jess to reconnect with artists he met during his stint with ACFOD and reach out to a new generation of socially engaged artists.

In December 2010, a core group composed of Jess, Bong Ramilo, Joseph Purugganan, JL Burgos, Jonathan Ronquillo and Leonard Reyes from the Philippines decided to form the Asian People's Music Collective, which is now known as Asian Music for People's Peace and Progress (AMP3).

Today, AMP3 connects socially engaged musicians across Asia to produce, promote, and enrich people's music, build and strengthen its community, foster solidarity with other artists, and support local and regional struggles.

Be part of the next Asian Village zine!

Connect with us at:

 fb.com/amp3page
 asianpeoplesmusic.wordpress.com

