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[Cynthia Alexander + Antonio Forcione = Jazz + World Music](#)

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Filipino music icon **Cynthia Alexander** headlines musical celebrations for Europe month when her group performs back-to-back with the UK-based **Antonio Forcione Quartet** in a grand concert fusing jazz and world music on May 4 at the **Crossroad 77** Convention Centre located along Mother Ignacia, Quezon City.

Jointly presented by **British Council Philippines**, Creative Futures, the Arts Council of Cebu Foundation, and Strats Plus Events Management in cooperation with the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, the Manila Bulletin, Crossover 105.1, Joey@92.3, Dream 106 FM, and Lite Rock 96.3, the show will also feature special guest performances from classical tenor Nolyn Cabahug and master jazzman Mon David, who recently won the grand prize in the London International Jazz Competition for vocalists.

Revered by young musicians as the doyenne of alternative artists, Cynthia Alexander's music first found fruition with the rock group **Hayp**, for which she won the **Best Bass Player Award** at the 1989 World Band Explosion Finals in Tokyo. Later joining elder brother **Joey Ayala**'s ethno-rock ensemble **Ang Bagong Lumad**, Cynthia then played the octavina, interspersed with the kulintang, agong and other indigenous Filipino percussion instruments. Her debut album "Insomnia and Other Lullabies" earned her a string of nominations for 15 categories in the Katha Music Awards. She has also been awarded twice at the annual NU Rock Awards.

Hailed as the Jimi Hendrix of the acoustic guitar, award-winning **Antonio Forcione** is considered one of the most charismatic and inventive performers to come out of Europe in recent years. His remarkable originality stems from his creative quest to use every imaginable part of the acoustic guitar without, for a second, losing sight of a refined musical sense. Together with his group comprising Nathan Thomson on double bass and flute, Jenny Adejayan on cello, and Adriano Adewale on percussion, Antonio plays vibrant and evocative music tinged with echoes of African, flamenco, Brazilian, classical, and blues with a hint of Indian raga.

After graduating from the Ancona Art Institute in Italy, he moved to the UK in 1983, and within two months, he leapt from obscurity to centre stage at the BBC studios when he won as Covent Garden Street Entertainer of the Year. He hasn't looked back since "composing and touring either with his group or as a solo performer."

Cynthia's live sound is a refreshing collage of standard and open tune guitars, gongs percussion and women's voices, occasionally spiced up by a cello or violin, resulting in Asian textures interwoven with impressionistic strings and prose-poetry. Highly intuitive, her music touches on supraconscious themes as well as on ordinary living, but always reflecting an intelligent artist seeking

refuge from the rejections of pop inanity.



Antonio, who plays Yamaha guitars, is a highly imaginative and seductive composer exploiting the melodic powers of his guitar with undisguised passion. Delicate, dynamic, and controlled, his music showcases a mind-boggling variety of styles and form. Through deft precision and wit, he never fails to win his audiences with a scintillating balance of virtuosity and playfulness.

Together, music from the **Cynthia Alexander Group** and the **Antonio Forcione Quartet**, along with the choice vocal stylings of **Mon David** and **Nolyn Cabahug**, will interweave into an ethereal web of strength and fragility against a background of cross-cultural experiences. Cynthia's own paintings, inspired by music from her albums will also be on exhibit, together with visual interpretations of Antonio's compositions as rendered by members of Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

After their concert, the musicians will conduct a workshop and master class on May 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., also at Crossroad 77. They then fly south for another concert at Theatre One of SM-Cebu on May 6, followed by a second workshop for Cebuano musicians on May 7 at the SM Trade Hall.

Tickets to the Crossroad 77 show are P500 for orchestra and P300 for balcony. For enquiries and reservations, call 374-4822 or 914-1011 to 14 (Manila) and 233-0452 (Cebu). Those interested in joining the Music Workshops should log onto www.britishcouncil.org.ph

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