

# KULINTANG KULTURA: GONG MUSIC OF THE PHILIPPINE DIASPORA



Photo Credit: Ube Arte

Kulintang, indigenous gong music of the southern Philippines, was introduced in the US by the performances of the Philippine Bayanihan Dance Company. Captivated by the company's choreography, costumes, and sounds of the "ancient" gongs, Filipinx youth presented their own versions in folkloric dance ensembles in Pilipino Cultural Night shows or PCNs. Half a century later, Filipinx artists incorporate kulintang into their own musical expressions of hip hop, electronica, and rock. Dr. Theo Gonzalves and Dr. Mary Talusan Lacanlale discuss an upcoming Smithsonian Folkways Recordings collection of traditional kulintang and works inspired by kulintang to uncover Filipinx creations in a quest for expressing indigenous Philippine precolonial identity in postcolonial cultural production.

**DATE:**  
**JANUARY 28, 2021**

**TIME:**  
**5 - 6:30 PM**



Photo Credit: Jeff Farsai

Mary Talusan Lacanlale is an assistant professor of Asian-Pacific studies at CSU Dominguez Hills. She graduated from UCLA with a PhD in ethnomusicology. Her book *Instruments of Empire: Filipino Musicians, Black Soldiers, and Military Band Music during US Colonization of the Philippines* will be published in Fall 2021. She performs Philippine gong music with the Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble.

Theodore S. Gonzalves is Curator of Asian Pacific American History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He has performed with several Asian American musicians; co-founded the record label, Jeepney Dash Records; and served as the musical director of the Filipino American theater troupe, tongue in A mood.



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