

What's in a Song?



When an educator and a renowned musician decide to teach values through music, it can only lead to a meaningful learning experience for all.

By Chiqui Escareal-Go

After a student told values education specialist Pauline Salvaña-Bautista that a highly popular song discussed in her class had a double meaning (a reference to drug abuse), she enrolled at the UP College of Music to find songs she could use in values education. At about the same time, Joey Ayala, an accomplished, self-taught musician who has received numerous awards for his work, felt he needed a boost by going back to school. The two met in a class on world music and realized that they had a similar goal, which was to use music to shape the hearts and minds of fellow Filipinos. Pauline had the values education background, while Joey knew of songs she could work with. Thus began their collaboration, which Joey coined the “valuesmusicsong” workshops. They have conducted these for many different groups, including teachers, youth leaders, government workers, and children in trouble. Valuesmusicsong focuses on

using art and music to build up Filipino strengths and talents towards achieving goals for the self, family, community, and nation.

Uniquely Filipino

Joey’s experiences as a Filipino formed the core themes of his OPM songs. “I use the language I grew up with and the things from my landscape—the gong, the *kawayan*, the *kubing*, pieces of wood... The awareness and the craft began with

my work in theatre where experiencing Bagobo music for the first time. It made all my bones and my insides listen—it had an implicit rootedness that I felt did not come with imported influences,” Joey recalls.

It was natural for Joey to write songs that could be used to teach values the way Filipinos understand them. His lyrics aren’t just beautiful, they are also meaningful; Pauline describes them as “healing.” Joey’s songs also fit the De-

Pauline Salvaña-Bautista couldn't be happier with Valuesmusicsong's success.



pEd-prescribed values of *makabayan*, *maka-Diyos*, *maka-tao*, and *maka-kalikasan*, as well as those in the Philippine Constitution: faith in God, respect for the environment, respect for life, unity, work, peace, freedom, and concern for future generations.

Views on Values

Coming from different backgrounds, Pauline and Joey define values in their own way. Pauline believes them to be principles that enable us to make good

decisions based on reason. She says that values are best “caught” (or learned through observation), but can also be deliberately taught. Joey, on the other hand, believes that teaching values is more of an experience and a process—an effect of living well, having a healthy sense of self and respect for others. Their workshops are based on these principles:

- values information is effective when presented in a language and style understood by the person
- values formation succeeds when it

leads to a positive experience of self

■ values transformation is relevant when it is perceived as a means to improve life

The response to their efforts was heartening. Says Pauline: “We witnessed the spontaneous response of both Filipino children and adults to song presented through radiant teaching. Students and teachers making music together in our pilots in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao enabled us to realize the dream to celebrate values through world music with fellow Filipinos!”

Radiate Values Today!

SAMPLE LESSON PLANS

valuesmusic song provides opportunities to deepen self-knowledge and develop a common vision through experience, self-expression, and creativity. Here are some lesson plans you can use.

Value: Concern for environment

Core Value of Development: **SELF-SUSTENANCE**

Pillar of Sustainable Human Development: **Sustainability**

Developmental Tasks: Optimism, Self-control, Individual purpose and direction, Competence

Creative Tasks: Movement, Socialization

Objectives: To enable the student to **1.** relate how concern for environment benefits self;

2. describe how this concern can be acted upon sustainably; **3.** demonstrate action which will help conserve or rebuild the environment.

Integration: **1.** concern for the environment and benefits to oneself; **2.** habitual contribution to maintaining the environment.

ACTIVITY: KINESTHETIC EXERCISE

Materials: no materials needed for this physical activity

Activity sequence:

Class is divided into 6 groups to correspond to the song stanzas. (Group) **1.** Assign one stanza per group

2. Think of a tasks involved in cleaning, beautifying and regenerating the environment relating to your stanza. **2.** Translate these tasks into an exercise routine. **3.** Present your routine when your verse is played.

Workshop participants are energized by this activity set to Karaniwang Tao, Best Pop Recording in the AWIT Awards of 1991. We found it is an effective way to induce physical alertness and elicit good humor in between sessions employing intense mind work.. We are very eager to hear about your own classroom experiences!

KARANIWANG TAO

Joey Ayala

ako po'y karaniwang tao lamang kayod-kabayo, yan ang alam karaniwang hanap-buhay karaniwan ang problema pagkain, damit at tirahan

di ko kabisado yang siyensiya ako'y nalilito sa maraming salita alam ko lang na itong planeta'y walang kapalit at dapat ingatan kapag nasira, sino ang kawawa

karaniwang tao, saan ka tatakbo kapag nawasak iisang mundo karaniwang tao, anong magagawa upang bantayan ang kalikasan

karaniwang bagay ay di pansin kapag naipon ay nagiging suliranin kaunting basura ngayo'y bundok kotseng sira ay umuusk sabong panlaba'y pumapatay sa ilog

may lason nga galing sa industriya ininubuga ng mga pabrika ngunit di lamang higante ang nagkakat ng dumi may kinalaman din ang tulad natin

karaniwang tao, saan ka tatakbo kapag nawasak iisang mundo karaniwang tao, anong magagawa upang bantayan ang kalikasan karaniwang tao, karaniwang tao

Value Theme: Faith

Core Value of Development: **SELF-ESTEEM**

Pillar of Sustainable Human Development: **Empowerment**

Developmental Tasks:

competence, integrated sense of self, openness to others, fulfillment and satisfaction with one's life

Creative Tasks: musical expression, reflective insights, visual expression, language expression
Objectives: To enable the student to **1.** define faith by describing happiness through simple words: nouns, experiences, actions;

2. relate these experiences with the presence of God in life; **3.** express appreciation for the presence of God in life by participating in a group music-making activity and writing a brief essay.

Integration: **1.** faith and happiness; **2.** dignity and knowing God; **3.** power in knowing God's presence

ACTIVITY: SING-ALONG-JAM, ESSAY-WRITING

Materials: Paper, pencil, any sound-making object (keys rattled, pencil box shaken, pens struck together, etc), pad paper, pen

Activity sequence: (Class)

1. Learn basic song melody. **2.** Sing together harmoniously, making improvised rhythmic sounds. (Individual) **3.** Write the word happy on bond paper. **4.** Around the word, list words associated with “happy”. **5.** Describe how God is source of each. **6.** Describe how God empowers self to achieve each source of happiness.

Starting with a prayer in song effects a positive outlook in our workshops. Joey and Pauline have found that children and adults from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao are able to sing Pasasalamat competently and enthusiastically after a brief orientation on its melody and tempo.

PASASALAMAT

Joey Ayala

Dakilang manlilikha - narito po ako 'bunga ng pag-ibig sa palad ng mundo Puso'y umaawit, awiting alay ko Salamat sa Inyo

Salamat sa araw sa buwan at bituin sa hayop at halaman, sa ulan at hangin Salamat sa kaibigan at sa kapwa-tao ko Salamat sa Inyo

Bawa't sandali ng buhay ay ligaya Bawa't hininga ay tunay na biyaya Bawa't pagsisikap ay may gantimpala

Dakilang manlilikha - narito po ako 'bunga ng pag-ibig sa palad ng mundo Puso'y umaawit, awiting alay ko Salamat sa Inyo





Joey's lyrics aren't just beautiful, they are also meaningful; Pauline describes them as "healing."

Value Theme: Work

Core Value of Development: SELF-SUSTENANCE
Pillar of Sustainable Human Development: Productivity

Developmental Tasks: Optimism, Self-control, Individual purpose and direction, Competence

Creative Tasks: Musical expression, Movement, Socialization, Reflective Insights

Objectives: To enable the student to 1. describe good work; 2. relate how good work successfully fulfills one's needs; 3. illustrate the characteristics of good work

Integration: 1. work and success; 2. work and sustaining one's needs; 3. successful work and creation of wealth

ACTIVITY: MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Materials: Paper, pencil

Activity sequence:

- (Individual) 1. Listen to the song. 2. Sketch actions illustrating the qualities attributed to successful work. (Group) 3. Compare your work with your group mates. 4. Make a choreographed interpretation of the verse assigned to your group putting together the sketched actions. 5. Alertly interpret verse assigned in turn as the song is played again.

Tagumpay was employed for television and radio commercials to convey dignity, responsibility and patriotism.

Source:

From Magkagnay sa Dagat sa Buhay : Radiant Teaching Methods in Coastal Resource Management Education

A paper on the workshops designed and piloted by Joey Ayala and Pauline Salvaña-Bautista for BFAR-FRMP in 2004

TAGUMPAY

JoeyAyala

Tagumpay, tagumpay, tagumpay
Ipagdiwang natin ang buhay
Sa lahat ng gawa ang galing ng
Pinoy
Sa tanglaw ng totoong tagumpay

Tagumpay, tagumpay, tagumpay
Tayo na at magbigay pugay
Sarili't kasama ay saluduhan
Sa tanglaw ng totoong tagumpay

Desidido sa bawat tagpo
Marangal sa bawat yugto
Masipag sa tuwina't may diwang
malaya
Bayani sa araw araw

Angkinin ang totoong tagumpay
Ipahayag ang ligaya ng buhay
Bigyang pugay ang galing
Ng Pinoy sa mundo
Sa tanglaw ng totoong tagumpay

May liwanag sa bawat yugto
Pahayag ng pagkatao
Malikhain sa tuwina't
Malaya ang diwa
Bayani sa araw araw

Tagumpay, tagumpay, tagumpay
Ipagdiwang natin ang buhay
Bigyang pugay ang galing
Ng Pinoy sa mundo
Ang galing ng Pinoy
Sa totoong tagumpay

Value Theme: Peace

Core Value of Development: SELF-SUSTENANCE
Pillar of Sustainable Human Development: Productivity

Developmental Tasks: Integrated sense of self, Openness to others

Creative Tasks: Movement, Reflective Insights

Objectives: To enable the student to 1. physically experience serenity and harmony; 2. describe how serenity and harmony facilitates good output; 3. enumerate the sources of serenity and harmony

Integration: 1. peace and ordinary experience; 2. self-sustaining peace and well-being; 3. peace and good output

ACTIVITY: INTERPRETATIVE MOVEMENT

Materials: Paper, pencil

Activity sequence: (Individual) 1. stand up. 2. close your eyes. 3. dance the song by interpreting the words in harmony with the music. 4. Sketch yourself doing your favorite gesture in interpreting the dance. 5. Around your sketch, describe how you can lead yourself to experience serenity and harmony. 6. Make a habit of finding serenity and harmony for five minutes daily for a week. 7. Keep that peace of paper, and daily describe the effect of serenity and harmony in yourself with the quality of your work.

The physical effect of music is most immediately felt. "Dagat Ay Langit" provides a serene soundscape for this adaptation of the "sea-creature stretch", a kinesthetic activity we designed to elicit appreciation for marine life which teachers- whom we found are truly children at heart- enjoyed very much! The music was composed by Cynthia Alexander.

ANG DAGAT AY LANGIT

JoeyAyala

Pag kalmada ang tubig
Nananalamin ang kalangitan
Sumisid sa linaw
At sa langit ka na lumulutang

Ang sarap, ang gaan maging
anghe----!
Ang dagat ay langit
At ang langit ay ito
Banayad at hinahon
Pagsisid pag-ahon

Pag kalamada ang tubig
Nananalamin ang maliikhain
Pagsisid sa linaw
Pagatao'y nagjigising

Ang sarap, ang gaan maging
anghe----!
Ang dagat ay langit
At ang langit ay ito
Anyo ng maliikhain
Sa pagkatao ko

Ang dagat ay langit
At ang langit ay ito
Anyo ng maliikhain
Sa pagkatao ko



Would you like to learn more?

We are also very eager to hear about your own classroom experiences. Pauline Salvaña-Bautista may be reached at valuesmusicsong@yahoo.com. Joey Ayala may be reached at batangbakal@yahoo.com, joeyayala@gmail.com, or visit www.joeyayala.com

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