

# *Fidel Gener Calalang Jr.*

Philippines

He finished his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Master of Arts in Music at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music in Manila. He is a faculty member of the Piano and Conducting Departments at UST. He is also head of the Composition, Conducting and Music Technology Department at UST.

He is the founder and conductor of the University of Santo Tomas Singers. Since its foundation in 1992, he has led the choir in 34 international concert tours in Europe, United States of America and Canada, Asia and Australia, and in winning 80 top prizes in different choral competitions, including the 1995 and 2010 Choir of the World Grand Prize in Wales, the United Kingdom, the 1995 Tolosa International Choral Competition in Spain, the 1998 Gran Premio Citta Di Gorizia in Gorizia, Italy, the 1998 Florilège Vocal de Tours in France, the 2002 Grand Prize in Tonen International Choral Competition in Monster, Netherlands, the 2009 California International Choral Competition in the USA, the 2010 Premio Habaneras and the Premio Intercontinental at the 56th Certamen Internacional de Habaneras y Polifonia in Torrevieja, Spain, the 2015 Grand Prize, thr Golden David Trophy in the Florence International Choir Festival in Florence, Italy, 2017 Grand Prize at the Ave Verum International Choral Competition in Baden Austria among others.

In 1999, he won First Prize in the International Composition Competition in Ojai, California, USA for his 8-voiced work "Ama Namin" (Pater Noster).

In 2002, he was awarded the Best Conductor Prize at the Tonen International Choral Competition in Monster, the Netherlands.

He was one of the prize winners in the 2007 National Choral Writing Contest "Mga Awiting Bayan Para sa Korong Pilipino" of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and his compositions for piano and solo voice won top prizes in the League of Filipino Composers and CCP's Composition Competitions in 1982 (Art Song), 1985 (Piano Sonata, and 1987 (Solo Instrument-Piano).

In 2015, he was awarded 2 special prizes along with the Grand Prize at the 4th edition of the Florence International Choir Festival in Florence, Italy, namely the Best Interpretation of the Required Piece and the Best Contemporary Choral Arrangement Prize for his arrangement of Ennio Morricone's "My Heart and I" from the film *La Piovre*.

He was member of the international jury in choral competitions in Pardubice, Czech Republic (IFAS) in 2006 and 2008, in Wales, the United Kingdom (Cor Cymru) in 2004, in Sopot, Poland (Mundus Cantat) in 2013, and in North Sumatera, Indonesia (the North Sumatera International Choir Competition) in 2016 and 2018.

He conducted choral workshops and masterclasses in Turin, Italy; at the Taipei Summer Music Festival in Taiwan, at the Polyfolia International Choral Festival in Normandy France; at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany; at the Aules Theater in Barcelona, Spain; at the University of Gdansk in Poland; at the Beijing Wuzi University; at the Beijing Normal University; at the University of Washington College of Music in Seattle, Washington USA; in Denver, Colorado USA; in Madrid, Spain; at the Korean Federation for Choral Music International Workshop in Jeju Island and, Baeksook University and Yaenoul Music Center in South Korea.

He was also the guest conductor of the Yaenoul Mixed Choir from Daegu, South Korea, the Vox Aurea Chamber Choir from Madrid Spain and the Beijing Wuzi University Choir in China.

He was the recipient of the 1997 and 2001 "Parangal ng Bayan Award (National Tribute) for Arts and Culture"; the 2003 "Outstanding Thomasian Alumni for Performing Arts"; the 2004 "10 Outstanding Citizens of the City of Valenzuela for Arts and Culture"; the 2010 "Dangal ng UST for Outstanding Artist in Music"; the 2010 "The Benavides Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Music"; and the 2011 "Gawad Lorenzo Ruiz Award for International Achievement". He is listed in the 2009 edition of Marqui's "Who's Who in the World" and is one of the 100 Outstanding Alumni of UST in its 400 years of existence as an educational and historical institution.

He regularly writes choral arrangements for the UST Singers and his works are performed by choirs locally and internationally. His choral compositions are published by Earthsongs Choral Music USA, under Music of Asia and the Pacific Series.