

"LIHAM: A Digital Song Cycle"

Weaving Stories of Filipino-Canadian Identity and Strength

Vancouver, BC – On Philippine Independence Day, June 12, a powerful new digital art piece takes center stage: *Liham: A Digital Song Cycle*. Composed by [Juro Kim Feliz](#) with poetry by Revan Badingham III, *Liham* (translation: Letter) is a four-part multimedia classical song cycle that doubles as a deeply personal memoir and a resonant love letter to the Filipino spirit.

Commissioned and produced by Filipino opera artist and theatre-maker Renee Fajardo, *Liham* offers a poignant reflection on the many layers of Filipino-Canadian identity, migration, and community. Alongside the songs, the work features stories from four Filipino-Canadians—including two Filipino business owners in British Columbia who also opened their spaces as filming locations—highlighting lived experiences that span generations and geographies. It also features the stories of local Vancouver visual artist, [Bert Monterona](#), and multi-award winning actor and singer [Carolyn Fe](#).

"It was important to us to work with folks within our community here, and I wanted the project to tell their—our—stories, wherever that took us," Fajardo shares. "This is a love letter to those of us who, for one reason or another, know what it's like to have a heart constantly between identities, between oceans."

Presented as a digital song cycle, *Liham* blends contemporary classical music, storytelling, poetry, and film. It challenges prevailing narratives and creative forms by affirming the validity of diverse Filipino experiences—whether born in Canada, newly arrived, or long-settled—without reducing them to stereotypes or trauma.

The project is now accessible for public viewing and listening at lihamproject.com.

Baritone [Danlie Acebuque](#) and pianist [Vivian Kwok](#) also feature musical performances in this cycle, with film direction by [Solara Thanh-Binh Đăng](#), cinematography by [Rachel Chen](#), film editing by [Josh Aries](#), and web design by [Joey Laguio](#).

The project premieres at lihamproject.com on June 12, marking Philippine Independence Day and celebrating Philippine Heritage Month in Canada.

Liham is supported by Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ABOUT THE PROJECT TEAM

Liham is a collaboration between leading Filipino-Canadian artists. Toronto-based composer Juro Kim Feliz brings an innovative voice in new contemporary classical music, while Montreal-based poet Revan Badingham III infuses the work with evocative, emotionally layered text. Vancouver-based

Renee Fajardo produces and performs in this work, alongside Danlie Acebuque and Vivian Kwok. The project unfolds visually through the direction of Solara Thanh-Bình Đặng, cinematography by Rachel Chen, film editing by Josh Aries, and digital design by Joey Laguio, bridging film, music, and digital storytelling to present an intimate and community-rooted artistic experience.

BOILERPLATE

Liham is a digital art song cycle that explores Filipino-Canadian identity through contemporary classical music, poetry, and film. Created by and for the Filipino community, it uplifts personal stories that challenge stereotypes and celebrate cultural continuity across oceans. The project launches on June 12 at lihamproject.com as part of Philippine Heritage Month celebrations.

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