



CARMEN ROMUALDEZ DE LA CRUZ
MUSICIAN AND CIVIC LEADER

Carmen Romualdez de la Cruz hails from Tacloban, Leyte, the Philippines, and was born on July 15, 1919. She is the daughter of the former Philippine Supreme Court Justice Norberto Romualdez and his wife Beatriz Buz Romualdez.

Carmen has resided on Guam since May, 1947. Her earliest school years were spent at St. Paul's College in Manila, where she graduated as valedictorian in 1929. In 1931, she completed an A.A. in preparatory law, at the University of the Philippines and finished her junior year in Philosophy and Letters. In March, 1932, she graduated as a teacher in the Conservatory of Music where she obtained her teacher's diploma in Pianoforte.

She and her husband, Don Paco de la Cruz of Agana, Guam, whom she married in 1932, established Guam's first and only school of music, The Guam Academy of Music and Arts. They have six children and 12 grandchildren. Most of their children and their spouses are engaged in the field of music as teachers or as performers.

Mrs. de la Cruz has received many commendations distinguishing her in the musical field, including: Founding member and past president of the Guam Fine Arts Society, now called Guam Symphony Society (1950-55; 1976-80); founding member and president of the Filipino Community of Guam (1955-56; 1966-67); organizer of the Guam Youth, Inc. (1956); and organizer and organist of the Guam Youth Choral Group. She served as organist and director of the Andersen Air Force Base Chapel Choir (1963-75) and the Dulce Nombre Maria Cathedral (Basilica) Choir.

Her numerous civic and service activities include: Guam Girl Scouts, Guam Women's Club, Guam TB Association, Association of Christian Mothers, Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee, Insular Arts Council, Filipino Ladies Association of Guam, Guam Beauty Association, Guam Beauty World Association and the Cursillo Movement of Guam. At present, she is President of the Civic Center of Guam Foundation whose goal is to build a civic center on Guam.

In view of her notable accomplishments, Mrs. de la Cruz has been recognized and awarded the following: Distinguished and Outstanding, Exceptional Service from the Filipino Community of Guam (1980); Outstanding Fil-American Award in Arts (1979); Highest Fraternity of Wisdom of the Chamorro Chief Quipuha Award by Guam Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo (1978); International Understanding Award (1977); "Women of Achievement Award" by the Business & Professional Club, presented by then First Lady Lourdes P. Camacho (1971); and in 1968, she was awarded, honoris causa, a degree in community service by the University of Guam.

She has offered a continuous "Carmen de la Cruz Scholarship" in piano from 1947 to the present. This is her gift to outstanding music students of her former alma mater, the University of the Philippines.

Her numerous religious activities include: committee member, Pope John Paul's Guam Visit (1981); Guam Delegate, First Asian Encounter and past president of the Cursillo Secretariat on Guam (1983).