

# **The Sociological and Educational Significance of Selected Cuyono Folk Songs**

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Lying southwest of Luzon, like a closed umbrella pointing to Borneo, is Palawan. Its geographical location is such that it has retained its mystic and unique ethnic groups along with their culture in the form of song, music, and dance. Cuyo, the old island capital of Palawan, is rich in folk songs. These songs have been handed down vocally from generation to generation. Only lately have efforts been made to record them in more permanent form, with the hope that this most cherished cultural possession of the Cuyono people will not be forgotten. At the same time some new Cuyonon-composed songs have become so popular that they have taken on the status of folk songs. This paper is an attempt at cultural revival, preservation and propagation of the rich musical culture of Cuyo, Palawan.

Folk songs are among our most cherished cultural possessions; they are the expression of our people's faith, joys, sorrows, hopes and aspirations. This paper aims to present the folk songs representative of the culture of Cuyono people, categorized as: A) Songs Children Love to Sing; B) Occupational Songs; C) Love Songs; D) Songs for Wakes and Vigils; E) Songs for Christmas; and F) Songs for Fiestas.

On its broadest level, this study aims at choosing songs for educational use, as instructional material for elementary and high school, taking cognizance of the educational and sociological implications of the songs, from which children acquire rich ideas and information, as they absorb the most authentic characteristics of the Cuyono people, ground their understanding of their own culture, develop skills in literary appreciation, and awaken the dignity of labor, service to and love of country which are essential in a democratic society.

In the shortened version of this study, the authors will present and discuss one song from each of the categories given above and two very popular "composed folk songs".