



Christianne Faith Muñoz: Passion Enthralls

by Christiana Magbujos

Talent overflowed in the MOQ Rising Stars competition held this June 2026 to welcome talents from ages 6-16. Youth coming from different corners of Qatar gathered to showcase their musicality, yet one Philippine School Doha student in particular made it to the top of the podium. When her passion and childhood dream combined to grasp an opportunity, **Christianne Faith Muñoz** seized the mic and stole the show! Taking part in the competitive category of Solo Singers for ages 12-16, her journey from auditions to the grand finalists' stage was as aspirational as it was thrilling.

Muñoz described the overall experience as 'nerve-wracking,' attributing her anxiety to the competition being her first outside PSD. Nevertheless, she persevered through each round with flying colors. Muñoz then talked about taking risks and giving your all as one of the biggest foundations when it comes to your passion. She acknowledged that her passion for singing was ultimately her driving force in persisting through the competition.

It takes a lot of guts for one to be able to perform in front of a crowd, but to be able to believe in oneself is the real secret to securing the win over any competition. As Muñoz said, her success did not come from being born on the podium; instead, it was born from the simple journey through her clubs and practice. She attributed her fruits of labor to her supporting factors: she mentioned that she will always be thankful to her vocal mentors, and PSD's HIYAW Chorale for teaching her sportsmanship and discipline. Additionally, she was given a clearer path of preparation through listening to other singers for techniques and tips.

Stage fright may be the most notable problem every performer faces, and Muñoz did not shy away from admitting that it is not something she would be overcoming soon. She stated that stage fright is a reminder that you, yourself are the only one holding you back from having true experiences—on that note, she has learned to handle the fear on stage by treating it as just another emotion that comes with performing. Muñoz explained that it is necessary to feel alert as it influences a singer to do their best. She added that her favorite artist Lea Salonga—dubbed as *the Pride of the Philippines*—still encounters stage fright, with the singer admitting that singing gives her the jitters to this day. However, her proven success shows that feeling anxious on stage does not stop her nor anyone from prospering in their professional journey—the talent and passion will always remain.

The full journey of the competition was not the swiftest among the vast sea of young talents, with Muñoz having to go through auditions, semi-finals, then finally reaching the grand finals—she described it as a riveting experience from start to finish. Muñoz explained that the most challenging part of the competition was the amount of people auditioning. Before the auditions started, the panel of judges alone and the sight of veterans of their own fields was an early fight to be welcomed in the world of a competition.

The winning pieces 'I Dreamed a Dream' by Lea Salonga and 'Don't Rain On My Parade' from Glee that brought Muñoz to her victory stemmed from her simple love of singing karaoke with her parents since she was a child. Over time, her practice became talent, and talent became passion. She explained that her so-called 'unconventional' song choices may have been the key to securing her win.

Ultimately, her triumph was accompanied by another grand opportunity: having the chance to perform with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, which matched her taste for musicals. Overall, Muñoz aspires to use these acquired skills and experiences in future performances and in continuing to build towards her goal: to continuously grow and have a bigger impact on the stage—entailing more opportunities in the future.

Finally, Muñoz shared a quote from the climactic song 'Defying Gravity' from the musical *Wicked*, that resonated with her deeply, "**Everyone deserves a chance to fly.**" With this powerful message, she believed that everyone deserves to grow, succeed, and follow their dreams. Muñoz wanted to convey that practice takes time, and it is always important to be grateful for the people who support you throughout your journey. As her final piece of advice to other aspiring artists with a burning passion, Muñoz shared these words: "**Love what you do!**"

Do not compare yourself to other artists, since everyone has his/her own sound and journey.”