

CALENDA, SUROY, ALTARES, BOLIBONGKINGKING, ET. AL: THE HISPANIC MUSICAL TRADITIONS OF LOBOC, BOHOL

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Music indeed, like vegetation, flourishes differently in different climates; and in proportion to the culture and encouragement it receives (Burney, 1789)

The Quadricentennial of Loboc in the year 2002 was a source of pride and honor for the people of the town who had the chance to commemorate this milestone in their history. Considered the music capital of the province of Bohol, a province in Central Philippines, Loboc was one of the first religious centers established by Jesuit missionaries in 1602. Since that time, it has maintained a predominantly western music tradition that has been heavily influenced by the Spanish missionaries who effected the Christianization of the island, converted the people to Catholicism and administered to their spiritual needs.

Spain's colonizing presence in the Philippines, simultaneous with the widespread propagation of the Catholic faith, undeniably and categorically reshaped the cultural landscape, not only of this town but of the entire country. Issues concerning Hispanization in local culture, assimilation of western musical influences and acculturation of the populace in the context of Spanish colonialism in the country have been, in my opinion, inadequately and insufficiently addressed by academe.