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## STRINGS OF PRIDE: THE CONSERVATION AND TRANSMISSION OF DAUIN'S RONDALLA TRADITION

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*“Ang rondalya angay ipasigarbo sa Dauin. Itudlo kini aron dili mawala ang inyong kahibalo kay wala nay mopadayon niini unya.”<sup>1</sup>*

-Mayor Rodrigo A. Alanano

### Abstract

This paper primarily intends to document how the skills of playing and instrument making of *rondalla* were taught and learned in Dauin, and subsequently transmitted to young family members and those in the community. The participation of *rondalla* groups in public events and competitions, the support of the local government unit and the school, and the awards and recognitions they received are examined in the context of the conservation of this musical tradition now threatened by modern music and technologically complex instruments. Theoretically, the *rondalla* as performance medium or craft has become a source of individual or community pride and is considered as an important factor in the present enthusiasm to perpetuate this tradition in Dauin's cultural life and identity. We conclude that by having both the school-based and community-based *rondalla* as complementary venues for expressing musical talent, the appreciation of this tradition is broadened in a manner that is sustainable across time and space.

*Keywords: rondalla, community, tradition, preservation, transmission*

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<sup>1</sup> “Dauin should be proud of its rondalya. No one can continue this unless you teach what you know so it will never be in vain”. These were the words of the mayor in Cebuano-Visayan as quoted by one of the *rondalla* players inspiring them to continue the tradition of Dauin. He was mayor during the period of the study and later elected as vice-mayor in 2010 after completing his term but subsequently designated as member of the provincial board when a vacancy arose.