

# Guam orchestras ring in new year with annual concert

By Uriah Aguon

Pacific Daily News

The Guam Territorial Band and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra teamed up for their third annual New Year's Concert on Jan. 1, ringing in 2026 with good vibes and great music.

Spectators at Micronesia Mall filled most of the center court and grouped around the above railing to watch the various ensemble orchestra performances.

Music director and main conductor of the youth orchestra Joanne Matanane, 43, from Barrigada, said the event is intended to close the holiday season and start the year off with

spreading joy.

"We like to ring in the new year and remind everyone that we just came off of this holiday season of Christmas, and we want to spread joy [with] good vibes," Matanane said.

Although only in its third year, the annual concert is a meaningful event for musicians to showcase themselves and enjoy their love for music and performing alongside others.

Matanane also said alumni of the orchestras often return to Guam for the holidays to see the concert and revisit their roots.

The youth orchestra features musicians as young as 10 years old and up to 25 years old, often collaborating with the Guam Territorial Band or alumni for mentorship.

Chief band master of Guam Territorial Band Jessica Milan, from Ma'ina, said the concert is a good opportunity for the musicians to gain a new performance experience as well as the audience.

She said members from both orchestras' string, percussion, woodwind, and brass ensembles mix together.



URIAH AGUON/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Music director and main conductor of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra Joanne Matanane leads the band as they ring in the new year at their third annual New Year's concert at Micronesia Mall on Jan. 1, 2026.

"It's a good opportunity to mix ensembles and get everybody exposed to different types of music," Milan said. "We have our own styles of repertoire, so it's a nice way of showing that kind of community, two community groups coming together."

## Door for possibilities'

The orchestras and their concerts open opportunities for youth, including traveling abroad, that may

not have been thought possible for some of its members.

Aaribuk Bukurrou, 24, from Latte Heights, has played violin in the youth orchestra for eight years. He started in the Guam Territorial Band in eighth grade and eventually auditioned for and joined the orchestra, where he also started playing the trumpet and oboe.

"Someone planted a seed, and now we have a bunch

of music," he said. "It shows [kids] there's a door for possibilities. I went to public school, and I'm mixed Micronesian, but I played at the Sydney Opera House. That's something you don't hear about for people from my background."

Bukurrou also said orchestra concerts are good for community morale. With recent years' crime rates and news reports, he added, "it's good to fluff in something more positive."

Concerts are also opportunities to expose kids and adults to music and future paths they might not hear or see regularly.

"This style of music is just so uncommon. This is kind of it for community bands on Guam," Milan said. "It [also] shows the younger generation how far you can go. I started in the Guam Territorial Band in 2009 when I was in high school, so I'm showing these younger kids that I've been in your place and moved up."

Matanane said the orchestras' main mission is to provide the best quality music education for its members.

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at [aguon@guampdn.com](mailto:aguon@guampdn.com).

# GRMC's Sevilla now certified physician/provider recruitment professional

**Pacific Daily News**

Guam Regional Medical City's medical staff recruiting and services manager Jennifer Sevilla earned her certified physician/provider recruitment professional certification from the Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment.

The certification was officially issued on Oct. 5, GRMC said in a Jan. 6 media release.

The national recogni-

tion highlights Sevilla's professional excellence and advanced expertise in physician and provider recruitment—from candidate sourcing and onboarding to workforce planning, retention, and compliance, GRMC said.

"Working at GRMC has afforded me the opportunity to expand my knowledge in both medical staff

services management and healthcare recruiting," Sevilla said in a statement. "I find personal satisfaction

in knowing that our work allows the people of Guam to receive specialized care close to home, surrounded by their loved ones."

The Association for Advancing Physician and Provider

Recruitment is the leading professional organization



Sevilla

dedicated to supporting and certifying in-house recruitment professionals across the United States.

"Jennifer's achievement is a proud moment for GRMC," GRMC chief medical officer Dr. Edison Manaloto said. "Her dedication to excellence and professional growth directly supports our mission of bringing world-class healthcare to Guam."

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <https://guampaho.org/gbme>  
LIVE Streaming link [https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings\\_list/gbme](https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gbme)

This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office-Local Funds.

For more information or to request for special accommodations, please contact the Board Office at (671) 735-7404-07-12 or email [hplo@dplass.guam.gov](mailto:hplo@dplass.guam.gov).