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Adventist Filipino choir wins Choir of the World title

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The Adventist University of the Philippines-based Ambassadors pose after winning 'Choir of the World' title at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod July 10.

The small town of Llangollen has hosted Eisteddfod -- Welsh for "festival" -- since 1947. The event celebrates musical competition, performance and international peace and friendship. Well-known Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti marked his first professional performance in the United Kingdom at Eisteddfod in 1968.

The Ambassadors also won first prize in the categories of Mixed Choirs and Chamber Choirs, and received the Luciano Pavarotti Trophy.

They wouldn't have made it to the festival without prayers and the support of choir alumni, who helped raise the necessary $43,000 to cover airfare, accommodation, visas and registration fees, Lijauco Jr. said.

The Ambassadors regularly perform worldwide and are counted among the notable choirs in the world, according to the World Ranking List of Musica Mundi. They have performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and at last year's General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2006, the choir earned "World Choir Games Champion" status in the Gospel and Spiritual Category at the 4th World Choir Games in Xiamen, China.