

Jimmy Dee — Guam today, world tomorrow

By BARBARA JACALA
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A new and modern Jimmy Dee and the Chamorritas will be seen at the Hilton's Micronesian Showroom December 20. Taking a side step away from their islandy image, the group will perform non-traditional choreographed numbers taken from Jimmy Dee's newest album "The American Dream".

Performing with them for the holiday extravaganza are local talents as The Serenas, The Compadres, Jesse Baletto, Gus & Doll, and Flora Baza.

The Serenas is a female trio noted for their recording of "Patgon Neni" and "Calypso Medley".

The Compadres is a self-contained rock and roll group composed of five men with Jesse Baletto as lead singer. Baletto often acts as a stand-in for Jimmy Dee at the Hilton when Dee goes on off-island tours.

Gus & Doll is a Chamorro country music duo popular for their "Munga Ma Usa Yu" (Don't Use Me).

Flora Baza, labeled the queen of Chamorro songs, has just released a new album. The former Miss Asia Quest and Miss Guam International is known for her rendition of "Puti Tai Nobio".

"A Christmas Evening with the Stars" will have two showings, the first at 7 p.m. for the dinner program and 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$25 for the first show including a prime rib dinner. The second, a cocktail show is \$10.

Presented by Hafa Adai Promotions and K-57 Radio, the show will be emceed by Jon Anderson. It is co-sponsored by Mark Pangilinan Enterprises, Chivas Regal, Mad Mel's Music, Flash Foto, Hilton, Jimmy Dee Productions and Napu Records.

In promoting the event Jimmy Dee remarks that he is pro-

ud to share the spotlight with the more prominent and popular acts available. He hopes the show will prove to the local community that there are a number of good local talents that can be tapped.

He continues that he is looking forward as a talent producer to develop others but stresses that this does not mean he is quitting as an entertainer. Saying that "I compete with myself and my own potential," Dee is expansive about the impact of his latest album.

"The American Dream" is the first album of original English composition recorded by a local artist. He spent \$60 to 80 thousand for its production. It was recorded in the Philippines and mixed in Japan.

Responding to criticism on the amount of capitalization invested in the record, Dee explains that the album, unlike others he previously made, is up to American and Japanese standards. He hopes it will be his ticket to a world market. He reports that although he has not yet recovered his initial capitalization, the album is selling very well on Guam and made number one here in January-February 1982 as certified by K-57. It has sold about 30 thousand units and he remarks, "and anything over 5 to 10 thousand units on Guam is good."

The album is being marketed in Hawaii and will soon be opening in Japan as well. He notes that the most popular song in the album is "Lost", a song recorded with top Philippine recording artist Becca Godinez. He admits that her fame might have a bearing on the popularity of the song and says that he is not opposed to recording a duet with artists of other ethnic groups.

He says that the album is conceived to penetrate the younger group of eight to 18 years bracket who are generally the

record buyers. The album is a commercial production conceptualized in the rock and roll Top 40 style, he adds.

Dee, who first recorded in 1971 and has been promoting Guam as a goodwill ambassador since 1972, says that the song "Hafa Adai" is very popular abroad that it is like the Guam national anthem.

The man who popularized "I Pution" reveals that researchers show that many of what is thought to be traditional Chamorro songs are really adap-

tations. He was surprised to be told that "I Pution" is originally "Honolulu Moon". He adds "Nihi Tapan Hanoo Tapan Piknik" is really "Take me back to good old Indiana" and "Dalai Neni" is "Do you remember the time?"

He says that many of the supposedly traditional songs are really early American, Spanish, Mexican or derivatives of songs from foreign countries. He defends that this trend is true all over the world, "I'd like to think it's valid, as long as it's

done in good taste, the better for the innovator." He cites that the Hawaiians did the same for "Aloha Oe" which is a New England hymn.

He advises that recording artists should be aware of the origins of songs and give credit to the composer.

He concludes that there is a market for local artists but cautions that it needs dedication, discipline and professionalism which goes with the trade. "I've learned that people make me," he says.

Baza album tribute to culture

By GIL ROBLES
Guam Tribune Staff

Flora Baza has a lot going for her. She was an honor student in high school, was the first Miss Guam to win an international beauty pageant and is now happily married and the mother of three. Releasing her first solo album is her latest accomplishment.

"Flora Baza. Queen of Chamorro Music" is the title of the album she recorded this past summer. It was produced by the Charfauros Brothers and is now available on Guam and Saipan in various stores.

Chamorro music lovers remember Baza for "Puti Tai Nobio", the song she made popular on a Johnny Sablan album in the 1970's. She is the first female artist to cut a local album.

"I love Chamorro music," the 32-year old musician said. "It's my way of hanging on to the tradition and culture of my people. When I'm away from home in a foreign country, I love to listen to Chamorro music because it makes me think of home. It really touches me."

She continued saying, "When I recorded my new



Tribune photo by Eduardo Siguenza

Tihago" means "If it weren't for you."

Another reason Baza thinks her album is unique is because it has a variety of music including reggae, cha-cha, slow, and contemporary. "Each song is performed in a different key. It shows the versatility of not only the singer but of the musicians as well".

Baza wrote most of the songs on her album including "Hinaso" which means remembering. It was arranged by her late sister Louise Baza. Louise also wrote and arranged another song Baza performs on her LP entitled "Hago". Hago means "you".

In 1970, when she was 19-years-old, she won the coveted title of Miss Guam International. She went on to represent Guam in the Miss Asia Quest, winning the title and becoming the first Miss Guam to win an international pageant. In the same pageant she was voted the "Most Talented" contestant. She toured Asia after that and circled the globe twice that year. She also did a lot of modeling for the sponsors of the pageant.

Flora Baza has definitely done much for promoting the island and her new LP will prove it.

album, I had in mind the Guamanian GI's stationed overseas and the families of them as well. I know how homesick you can become."

Baza recently returned to Guam after a 10 year absence with her husband Anthony Quan who is now the commander of the Air National Guard here on island. They are stationed here for the next four years.

She says "Flora Baza. Queen of Chamorro Music" is unique for several reasons. First of all, it was done by local artists of whom she said she enjoyed working with tremendously. One of her favorite cuts off the record is the song "Yangin Tihago".

"There's a nice guitar solo by Ed Benevente," Baza said. "It almost sounds as if it were crying out to you." "Yangin