KUMINTANG - KOMINTANG

The *kumintang* or *komintang* is the name given to several distinct styles, techniques and forms in music and dance probably originating in the areas used by early Spanish cartographers and chronicles to denote a large province centering around what is known as Batangas. Early 19th-century travelers' accounts often mention the *kumintang* as a Tagalog "chant national", describing them as dance-songs performed by pairs of men and women, with texts concerning love and courtship. All accounts mention a glass of coconut wine passed from hand to hand by the dancers as they sing.

Jean Baptiste Mallat describes it as a pantomimic dance where the man runs around and gestures to a woman (not always decently), and finally pretends illness to get the woman's full attention.

In the 20th century, Francisca Reyes-Aquino dubbed as *kumintang* the circular hand and wrist movement also known as the *kunday*. Among present-day afficionados of musical and dance events called *awitan* and *pandangguhan* in and around the city of Batangas, *kumintang* also refers to a guitar-plucking style, considered the most melodious and beautiful of all guitar styles accompanying the old *kinanluran* style of *pandangguhan* dance songs.

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