"Music is a window to the soul and identity of a people in a religious sense, as St. Augustine says, that to sing is to pray twice. Hence, how true is the observation that Filipinos who lived in the convent for 400 years and in Hollywood for 40 years have not developed a distinct Filipino theology. We don't have a theology, we sing!

We seek the renewal and rebuilding of our community and shared faith by deeply rooting the Christian message in the values, tradition, and culture of the Filipinos. We celebrate our jewel of music, we take pride in our history, we cherish our heritage. We make the gospel at home in the Filipino-American life and witness." – Rev. Dave Rodriguez

The Spiritual Image is a non-profit Filipino Christian musical show chorale from former Melrose United Methodist Church in Oakland, California, whose main goal is to express the gifts the Filipino culture brings to society and to the Church. Music and songs are, for Filipinos, effective ways of bringing out their gifts of faith and culture, as well as of joy and celebration. Using these gifts have become not only a true blessing, but have enriched each member's lives as well as the lives of those who have seen and heard The Spiritual Image perform.

The calling of The Spiritual Image began more than 16 years ago, November 1993 to be exact. From humble beginnings with a small group of seven and small performances blossomed a musical powerhouse that has now toured internationally. With well over 29 active members, including young adults, The Spiritual Image is an education onto itself, teaching the values of patience, fortitude, and love to all involved. Through the years, The Spiritual Image has performed for upwards of thousands of people in dozens of venues, for various causes.

In 1996, Angie Bacho-Manalili, an internationally accomplished choir director, soloist, choral arranger and pianist, with a bachelor of music degree from the University of the Philippines and former member of the world-renowned University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers, became the music director of The Spiritual Image.

The Spiritual Image is not only a musical show choir to sing and to perform, but a ministry designed to educate and to evangelize through music. The chorale continues to be persistent to preserve and to share the traditions and culture of Filipino people as well as use music and drama as medium for evangelization. For the past 16 years, the chorale has been evangelizing through music and helping churches and church-related organizations raise funds. Their ministry has taken them all over the United States and to third world countries.

The chorale traveled across the world in 2004 to participate in Knox UMC's 106th Founding Anniversary and to help them raise funds for their new startup church, Lemery UMC in Batangas. Note that Lemery UMC is now self-sustaining. The chorale hopped to Lower Myanmar to respond to Bishop Zothan Mawia's invitation to help them celebrate their 125th Year Celebration of Methodism in Lower Myanmar (former Burma).

The chorale was invited back to the Philippines in December 2006 by Mary Johnston Hospital (a United Methodist hospital) to participate in their 100th year anniversary celebration and to help raise funds for their new cancer facility. They performed at AFP Theater in Quezon City. The chorale did two additional benefit concerts to help raise funds to support continued development of church congregation in Batangas and construction of a new church in Pampanga. The chorale's third mission trip to the Philippines in January 2008 helped raise money to complete a new building of a local church in Pampanga.

The Spiritual Image was invited to sing at the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, during one of the Worship Services and performed at one of the spotlight concerts. The chorale was the first ever Filipino-American choir to be selected amongst 260+ applicants. They performed with roughly 60 other groups. The chorale was invited back again to sing at the 2008 General Conference in Forth Worth, TX.

Although this chorale has performed overseas and in countless venues in California and other states, every performance is important to them. From a one-song performance to a full-blown concert, The Spiritual Image consistently gives 100% in proclaiming the word of the Lord through song and dance.

On February 2009, The Spiritual Image received its non-profit religious organization status in State of California. The chorale now resides at Lake Park UMC in Oakland, California. They are now preparing for their fourth mission trip to the Philippines in February 2010.

To learn more about The Spiritual Image, visit http://thespiritualimage.org or at Facebook and YouTube. To invite the chorale and/or for more information, e-mail info@thespiritualimage.org or call (925) 727-1295.