

# strums

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**E**d and Marissa Mendoza may look a little familiar to those of you living or working in the Greer area because of their day jobs, but it's their other profession that makes them well known, not only locally, but internationally as well.

New Greer residents, Ed and Marissa make up the band Strums, which features Marissa as lead vocalist and on keyboards and Ed on the acoustic and electric guitar and vocals. Strums' blend of top 40, easy listening and 70s songs, makes them a favorite house band to several local restaurants, and a perfect band for a special party or event.

Downtown Greer experienced the musical duo this July during Tunes On Trade, where they performed to a packed house, or street, so to speak. After their performance, Greer Cultural Art's Council was inundated with inquiries.

The husband and wife team are both Filipino. Marissa was born in the Philippines and moved to Guam with her family. Ed was born in Charleston, and has lived all over the U.S., the Philippines, and Guam. Marissa was a radio personality and later a flight attendant for Continental Airlines based in Guam. Ed was a musician when they met. They collaborated musical styles and started playing seven days a week, twice a night,



and opened their own club in Guam. They had a large fan base in Guam. But what happened on September 11, 2001 in New York is what brought them here.

Ed and Marissa were visiting relatives in Greer on that tragic day. They could not get a flight back home to Guam. After several months, they had fallen in love with the city and the citizens of Greer, so they decided to stay. They started playing music at their new church, Springwell Church, then Soundmaster's started booking them for corporate functions. Eventually, Ed flew to Guam, picked up their supplies, and the rest is history.

Marissa went back to the airline business as a ticketing agent at GSP airport, and Ed works as a mail carrier for the Post Office in Greer. He finds it rather fun to be interviewed for *GreerNow* and says his friends at the Post Office will get a kick out of this story! 🌸

**Who is your family?**

*We have two adorable children, a boy, Kieffer, who is ten and a girl, Keddy, who is four.*

**Your education?**

**Ed:** *Self-taught musician*

**Marissa:** *Broadcast Major from Manila, Philippines*

**How long have you lived in Greer?**

*5 years*

**How do you like Greer?**

**Ed:** *Greer is perfect. The pace is slow, and there are opportunities. It's a comfortable place to live.*

**Marissa:** *I love Greer, it's peaceful.*

**Do you have a favorite artist?**

**Ed:** *Pink Floyd*

**Marissa:** *Jewel, and singers and bands from the 70s*

**What book are you reading now?**

**Both:** *the Bible*

**Who do you most admire?**

**Ed:** *Marissa.*

**Marissa:** *Ed, his outlook on life*

**What is your most important belief?**

**Ed:** *To respect others*

**Marissa:** *If you want something, there is always a way to achieve it.*

**What has surprised you?**

**Ed:** *The way downtown Greer is being revitalized.*

**Marissa:** *Technology and the latest gadgets coming out.*

**What is most rewarding for you?**

**Ed:** *My family and the response I get from people here pertaining to my music.*

**Marissa:** *My kids, our son excelling in school, being able to make our own music, writing our own original songs.*

**What's next?**

*We're going to the Philippines for three weeks in September to do some gigs and some recordings. After that, you can find us at Molina's in Greer and Travelers Rest and on [www.strums.net](http://www.strums.net)*