



Di Klef -

The key to Ballanta Academy of Music
& Performing Arts

November / December 2021

Hello readers! It's a real pleasure to connect with you all, friends and well-wishers all over Sierra Leone and the world!

In this last edition of 'Di Klef' for the year 2021, we are pleased to share with you our new energy and spirit. Together with you, our dear readers, we will scale greater heights as we end this year and begin another one! We promise you more and more music and dance! Thank you for your presence at our events, your donations, your advocacy and your prayers for continued success with our students as they make music and dance throughout this our 26th year!

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Visits

Visit of the British Council Regional Director, Mr. Moses Anibaba OBE on 25th November accompanied by Ms. Kelly Ferguson, British Council Director in Sierra Leone. Picture L to R: Mr. Anibaba, Leslie Cummings-Wray, Dr. K. Fadlu-Deen, Ms. Kelly Ferguson





Events

The Christmas Concert on 4th December 2021 at Buxton Memorial Methodist Church was a joyous occasion where not only did we hear several young organists produce stirring and serene sounds from their new organ, but also voices and instruments from Sierra Leonean and foreign nationals giving us a beautiful dose of pre-Christmas music, getting us into the mood for the festive season. Half way through, the 'Joy of the King of Instruments' was launched by organist and Christopher's teacher, former Board Chair Tani Pratt, who expressed his appreciation and support for the project which will inspire and produce many more organists. The concert and launch was an initiative of staff member Christopher James, who organized the event and saw it to its smooth conclusion. Bravo Christopher! Thanks for a specially beautiful event! If you wish to watch it, check the following link:<https://bit.ly/3ExxbSP>





Events

Our students are shining...here are snapshots of them performing at the three monthly concerts we have held in October, November and December. Our Senior Teacher Leslie Cummings-Wray makes sure they run smoothly and are enjoyed by family and friends.





Events

With sponsorship from the German Embassy, we were able to hold three master-classes/workshops at the Academy. The first on 6th December was given by Lovelace Love-Harding, on playing techniques for brass players.



The second on the 13th December focused on classroom music teaching. It was given by Jaiah Kemokai. The third on the 20th December drew vocalists and choir directors who wanted to learn from Dr. Joseryl Beckley, an opera singer and voice specialist. Participants from Makeni, Magburaka and Bo shared their experiences under the theme "I teach you, you teach me".



Dance teacher, Egerton Maitland, giving a dance session to the Sierra Learners at 29 Water Street, Congo Town.





Events

Board director, architect and musician Gwyn Allen with David S. Koroma and Michael B. Kamara, joined by Mr. Greene, performed at the British High Commissioner's Christmas Reception, hosted by the British High Commissioner, Ms. Lisa Chesney.





Events



Groovy Colours performing at Climate Change Festival at Lumley beach



Groovy Colours playing for customers at Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Wilkinson Road on Dec. 15





Donations

We are grateful for the following received from our well-wishers:

- 1. Donation of a Casio Digital piano with stool, from Hugh Chalmers on Dec 2021.**
- 2. Donation of Korg Keyboard from Drucil Taylor Esq in Nov. 2021 for Groovy Colours.**
- 3. Grant of Le20,210,000 for the project I Teach You, You Teach Me from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for three masterclasses/workshops in Brass, Classroom Music, and Vocal Music, conducted by Lovelace Love-Harding, Jaiah Kemokai and Dr. Joseryl Beckley respectively.**
- 4. Donation of \$1000 from Dr. John and Mrs. Rita Hirsch, former US Ambassador to Sierra Leone.**
- 5. Donation of GBP 400 from Voices of Sierra Leone Choir (UK) for one scholarship. The recipient is Daniel Harding.**
- 6. A packet of clarinet reeds and a tutor for the flute, donated by Mrs. Lesley Mountford in the UK.**
- 7. Internet connection for the Academy for six months, from Baker Tilly. They are also supporting us with our accounts.**
- 8. \$300 from Mr. John Anthony, for 2 partial scholarships .**
- 9. \$500 from Mr and Mrs (Dr) Salil Joshi**

Thank you to all the above for their most helpful donations. May God bless you all!





Wedding

Our violinist in the Sierra Consort, and violin teacher, Dr. Emmanuel Bishop got married on 11th December, in Nigeria. We congratulate the happy couple and wish them God's blessings.





Community

During the Christmas season, our band Groovy Colours played in the following banking halls: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and Vista Bank. Customers had a musical banking experience during those hours! Hopefully they didn't miss a Leone while transacting business listening to the music!
Our outreach classes to City Mission Methodist School and Regent Square Municipal continue



They are made possible by a grant from Choithram's





Other news

The completion of the mini-auditorium is going on, with electrical wiring completed. We have theatre seats ordered from China, and the pavilion to hold them being sponsored by Vista Bank. We still have a little way to go, to cover the costs of tiling, a lighting booth, a generator and air-conditioners. Target date for completion....April 2022. Do help us complete the one and only theatre space in Free-town....every little helps. Channel your donations through the office, +232 30632671.



Double King new song



Song link
<https://youtu.be/bXt46eF9rZ0>





Other news

We invite you to tour the Academy through the AYV TV short film made on Oct 1 International Music Day
<https://bit.ly/3ExxbSP>

Look out for the School Bands Concerts on 27-29 January which will feature the top bands in Freetown.

Save the Date - Feb. 26th 2022 ...for the International Music Evening. If you come from another country, and would like to share your country's music/dance in this event, please let us know. You will be most welcome!

Our membership drive continues, and the list is growing....don't be left out....register your interest by calling 030632671 to be a member of the Academy.

The Board of Directors, Ag. Principal, staff and students of BAMP A wish all our readers an amazing Christmas and a most successful New Year! Please stay safe and keep your COVID regulations constantly in mind.

Appeal for a vehicle

We are in need of another van/mini-bus to replace the one which has served us faithfully for the past ten years, carting our band members and equipment for performances here and there. Please contact us if you can help in any way.





Sponsorship / Partners

The Ballanta Academy of Music and the Performing Arts has the goodwill and sponsorship of

Our Partners

- The Freetown City Council
- The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
- The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education
- The British Council
- The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Mercury International Charitable Foundation
- The Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- Wells Cathedral School (UK)
- Choithram's
- NP
- Ma Dengn
- Print Point
- Bintumani Hotel
- Union Trust Bank
- Vista Bank
- Baker Tilly
- Awoko
- Premier Media
- Africell
- C & K Consultancy

