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The key to Ballanta Academy of Music
& Performing Arts

January / February 2022

Commentary

Hello all, we are happy to announce our new newsletter editor, Sarafina Nicol-Sesay. Ms. Sesay also doubles as our Marketing Consultant. She will be assisting with marketing the academy in an effort to improve its visibility and generate funds. She takes over from Dr. Kitty Fadlu Deen, the former editor of the newsletter.

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Press Release

Press Release
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Wednesday 12th January 2022



The historic first practice of the Ballanta Orchestra: L to R. Nick Gardner, Dr. Emmanuel Bishop Llewelyn Mac-Davies, Dr. James Bunn, Charlie King (Jnr), Mayford Bascho-George, Musa Sam Ganda, Joselyn Kobba, and Lovelace Love-Harding (director).

Saturday 15th January 2022

BAMPA announces new staff member, Sarafina Nicol-Sesay, Marketing Consultant. Her role is to help effectively promote and sell the academy to its target audience, in line with realizing its vision. Sarafina holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication, specialty in Public Relations and Advertising, from the Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone. She's passionate about music, theatre, and dance. She currently trains at the academy in voice, keyboard, and guitar, and aspires to be a famous Broadway performer.





Brass Band Concert



All-round spectacular performances from The Lumley High School Band, The Five Star Brass Quintet, The RSLAF Regimental Band, The SL Grammar School Band, Golden Groove Big Band, Government Model School Band, The Albert Academy School Band, St. Edwards School Band, and St. Joseph's Secondary School Band. Performance pieces included SUSSEX BY THE SEA, FOREVER ABBA GOLD, AIN'T NO SUNSHINE WHEN SHE'S GONE, and WE LEK WE SALONE.

The concert was a vision of Dr. Fadlu-Deen to showcase the development of school bands and to raise funds for the completion of the BAMP mini-auditorium. We raised a total of Le 50,000,000 from the event.

A big thank you to all the event sponsors!

- *Baker Tilly
- *Family Kingdom
- *Balani & Sons
- *Ecobank SL
- *British Council
- *British International School
- *Protec Security and Logistics





Visits

The British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Ms. Lisa Chesney visited the academy on Friday, January 28th, received by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of BAMPA, Dr. Julius Spencer, and Ag. Principal Dr. Fadlu-Deen.





New Instruments

We received a donation of 3 guitars (acoustic, bass, and rhythm), 2 recorders and recorder, guitar books, 3 music stands, and a digital guitar tuner from Lesley Mountford in the UK through a connection made by Raymond M. Davies.





Donations



Generous Donation

Dr. Kitty Fadlu-Deen the Ag. principal of Ballanta, received £400, as a scholarship donation, from Collins Pratt and Lovetta of the Voices of Sierra Leone UK Choir, who raised it from their Christmas concert in 2021

Other Donations

- * A donation of £700 from Drs. James and Mary Bunn, members of the Sierra Consort. The donation was raised upon request of Dr. James, that instead of presents on his birthday, money contributions be given towards the academy.
- * An LG TV from Dr. Kitty Fadlu Deen.
- * Donations towards the completion of the mini-auditorium; \$1,500 (anonymous), Le1m from Ms. Kläre Heyden, Le5,000,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Martin Michael, Le1,000,000 from Kate Kron-tiris, Le5,000,000 from Alhaji Jaward of the Family Kingdom, Le500,000 from the Dr. Steven Shongwe, the WHO Representative.
- * Donation of £50 from Dr. Esme Frazer in the UK
- * Le20,000,000 from Sierra Fishing Company
- * €480 from Mrs. Remmy Mahdi-Wermes
- * Le10,000,000 from Justice Adelaide Dworzak
- * A donation of Le 17,500,000 million by Sierra Fishing Company.



International Music Evening

A magical night sparkling with music and dance acts from Sierra Leone's international community and native artists.

Featuring performances from:

Sierra Leone: Dance by Young Ballanta dancers choreographed by Egerton Maitland, Cultural dance choreographed by Sajoh Jalloh, Songs by Groovy Colours 'So so Wondri', 'Di gron dri', 'Take my hand', 'Sweet Salone.'

China: The Sona (traditional folk musical instrument) by Mrs. Deng Yinli, Cucurbit Flute (traditional folk musical instrument) also by Mrs. Deng Yinli, Guzheng (Zither, traditional folk musical instrument) by Miss Wang, 'Lion Dance' from The Confucius Institute, University of SL

Lebanon: Cultural Dance by #The Lebanese International School

India: Dance from Indian community choreographed by Mrs. Anju Prithiani, Song 'Ek Pyar Ka Nagma Hai', a tribute to the late Lata Mangeshkar, by Mrs. Anju Prithiani,

Turkey: Song - Gidiyorum Gunduz Gece by Mr. Ali

Egypt: Fusion Dance choreographed by Sisi

Guinea: Song by Fullah musicians

Ghana: Cultural Dance

The Philippines: The Tinikling (a folk dance)



We are grateful to all the event sponsors:

- * Bintumani Hotel
- * Brussels Airlines
- * Print point
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- * Africell
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- * Commerce and Mortgage Bank
- * Confucius Institute in the University of Sierra Leone
- * Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
- * Ecobank
- * Rokel Commercial Bank

Contributors of food and drinks:

- * Choithram's & Sons
- * G. Shankerdas
- * Dr. Adonis Abboud
- * Mrs. Agnani
- * Dees Bazaar
- * Salvonne Bakery
- * Swiss Hotel
- * Country Lodge Hotel
- * Atlantic Lumley Hotel
- * Gigibonta
- * Hotel Barmoi
- * Alex's Beach Bar
- * Crown Bakery
- * St. Mary's Supermarket



Performance

BAMPA students performing a dance skit at the birthday celebration of Ms. Jacqueline John.





Upcoming Events

EASTER CONCERT - April 16 2022 at BUXTON MEMORIAL CHURCH



Ballanta Christmas concert 2021
at Buxton Methodist Church
<https://youtu.be/i-2RXU9Nm2c>

LAUNCH OF THE MINI AUDITORIUM/ GBONGBOSORO MUSICAL PRODUCTION - May 20, 2022.

I interviewed the writer and director of the play, Dr. Julius Spencer....

What does Gbongbosoro mean, and why that name for a musical?

It is a Temne word used to describe a situation of confusion/conflict/trouble/chaos etc. It effectively reflects the story and situations in the drama.

What's the inspiration behind the musical?

The inspiration is based on the various challenges the majority of Sierra Leoneans have to face these days. It is an expression of my struggle to understand why we are bedeviled by these challenges and what can be done to alleviate the situation.

Why is Gbongbosoro a must-see?

The themes the play deals with are familiar to most Sierra Leoneans and like every good play, it holds up a mirror for society to see itself. In addition, the form and style of the play are a novelty in this country. The audience will also have the opportunity of experiencing real professional theatre with professional lighting and sound and stagecraft of an internationally acclaimed theatre director. It will compare favorably to the best theatre that can be experienced in various capitals around the world.

What will be the impact of Gbongbosoro on audiences and society at large?

In the first place, this product will cause those who experience it to reflect on their lives and the challenges faced by many Sierra Leoneans. It will also reignite interest in live theatre in Sierra Leone by providing an all-around entertainment experience for the audience and opening their eyes to the enormous potential of theatre for edutainment.



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
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