



Di Klef

The key to Ballanta Academy of Music
& Performing Arts

June

Dear Readers, welcome to the June 2022 edition of Di Klef, your window into the wonderful Ballanta world!

This month has been full of activities, and we hope to capture the learning, performing and joyful atmosphere in the following pages.

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Learning

The Tower Hill Kindergarten and Primary School children have been enjoying their post-NPSE musical experiences at the Academy this month, with body percussion, recorder playing, singing, African music and theory of music. Our energetic staff kept them learning and enjoying music that they wouldn't normally experience at school.



Musa Ganda challenges them with body percussion



Michael Kamara goes over recorder playing in parts, reading from notation



Lovelace Love-Harding coaches patiently on theory of music



Michael Kamara leads on body percussion

You can enjoy their singing David Koroma's 'Mama I love you' on <https://youtu.be/GjLN0n-acww>



Learning



Dr. Emmanuel Bishop patiently encourages a beginner's string class



Our Five Star Brass rehearse at Jui on the invitation of Derick Atere-Roberts



Sisi and Egerton with their dance class



Solo's Beat held a Music Production Masterclass 27-29 June. Who better to learn from?



Lovlace Love-Harding teaches trumpet to St. Joseph's Primary School children



Performing



Groovy Colours perform 'African Soldier' at the ceremony to hand over the register of Sierra Leoneans who were involved in WWII, compiled by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at the Sierra Leone Museum on the 22nd June 2022



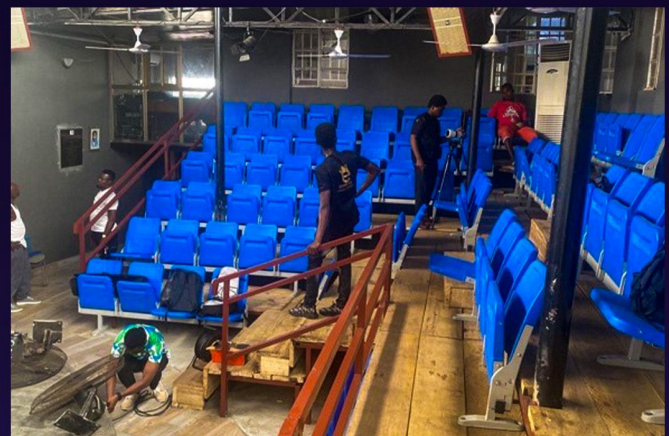
Towards the opening of the Logie Wright Auditorium



The chairs arrive from China, and Isha Bull worked very hard to get them from the quay

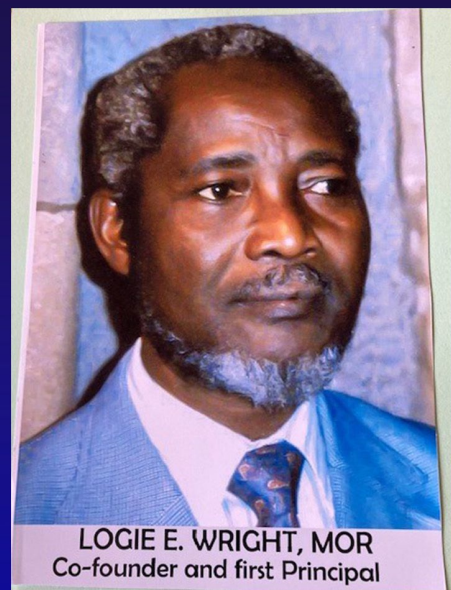


The chairs are coupled up



The chairs are positioned

BALLANTA
This auditorium was made possible by the financial contributions of the following:
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Vista Bank
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Ms. Kate Krontiris
Mrs. Glenys Blyden (Go Fund Me campaign)
National Petroleum (SL)
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Mr. and Mrs. Martin Michael
Capt. Fabjanko Kokan
Dr. Christian Horton
Ms. Klaere Heyden
Mr. Kamal Nasser
Bands Concert Audience



LOGIE E. WRIGHT, MOR
Co-founder and first Principal



The Opening – graced by



Hon. Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Memunatu Pratt



Hon. Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Wurie



Hon. Minister of Western Area, Mrs. Nabeela Tunis



Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs. Yvonne Aki-Sawyers



Left to right: Dr. Julius Spencer, Ms. Lisa Chesney, British High Commissioner, Dr. K. Fadlu-Deen



Mrs. Lulu Wright, first chairman of the board, gives a short comment on her late husband, Mr. Logie Wright



Five Star Brass were also in attendance, providing catchy music for guests.



Premier performance of Gbongbosoro for the opening of the Logie Wright Auditorium on 24th June 2022





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Gbongbosoro was written and directed by Julius Spencer, chairman of the board of Ballanta Academy of Music and Performing Arts. The Temne word “Gbongbosoro” translates in English as - confusion, chaos, disorder, mayhem.

In his review of the premiere, written on www.myepiconline.co Mohamed Jaward Nyallay says ‘With a largely green cast, Director Spencer was able to achieve something incredible with this play’.

He goes on to say: “Here are 6 reasons why I want more of Gbongbosoro:

1. Strong social message : Watching the play, you see every shade of our society depicted; the politician, the worker, student and the parents. You see the struggle; exploitation and everything in between. This play is simple but, beneath that simplicity, there is a powerful message. The songs give every scene a bit of “oomph” as the playwright described it. It’s a combo of sheer hard work and genius to have been able to weave all of those sub plots together. The play deals with a lot of daily subjects and strong social problems which we all experience in a way, but don’t really discuss because of how uncomfortable it is. Whether its exploitation in the church, sexual harassment in college or politicians buying votes with money, these are all realities that this play brutally highlighted.



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Perhaps for me the most impactful line in one of those scenes was when a man asked his colleague “Na respect the make pot boil na u ose?”. This was a scene where a politician was distributing money to voters and a character who is a struggling worker in the play felt too proud to take that money, for fear that he will lose his respect.

The auditorium where the play was performed is a small and intimate space, so the message in each of these scenes looked very personal. In some scenes I felt as if some of the actors were talking to me. Am sure some other audience members felt the same way too.

2. “Disappear, Vanish, Vamos”: Streeter is still a legend : How can I not enjoy this play so much with Streeter on stage, personally I have never seen him perform, I have just heard the rumors of how great an actor he was. But Denis Nelson Streeter lived up to the billing, he was the funniest character but yet the calmest in delivery. He is one of the reasons why I could come every week to see this play.

He played an old Political Science lecturer and later a righteous politician. “Disappear, Vanish, Vamos” is one of his most memorable lines of the night. He delivered it to send Isatu away from class because she hadn’t paid her fees. Isatu is a student he had tried to seduce into sleeping with him, during the play. Am sure the rest of the cast learnt a lot from him. It was such a privilege to watch him perform. Class just oozed out of him.

3. Women on center stage: Whether it was Isatu, Isatu’s mother, or Isatu’s friend, these are all women that shone bright under the spotlight. They did a fantastic job of telling the story of so many other women in society. It’s no easy thing to carry the burden of so many people in one performance, but the pressure didn’t get to them, at least not on stage. They were not fringe characters, they played a major role throughout the play and did so brilliantly.

4. Green cast, Golden performance: It’s hard to believe that most of the cast in Gbongbosoro have never done this before, some have done it a few times but by far the most experienced actor on stage was Streeter. So, when Dr. Spencer told the audience that the cast of the play have no significant acting experience, it was quite a shock. I can imagine the sheer hard work that was put in to producing this work. I really hope they consider drama as a career; despite the odds. I want to see more of the Pastor that took us to church and enjoyed his scene so much, drunk Moses that managed to stay in character right through that song and Isatu’s calm demeanor on stage for every appearance. They were green, but the performance was golden.



Premier performance of Gbongbosoro for the opening of the Logie Wright Auditorium on 24th June 2022

5. The songs: The songs were simple but powerful. “Di Gron Dry” “Suffer Suffer” or “Kakto”, am still struggling to pick my favorite but they were all delivered perfectly. And thanks to the magic of the in-house live band, Groovy Colours, they made it all look and sound incredible. The blend of classical instruments with the African drum gave the songs a really great feel.

6. Time: The play started on time, which is a very important point. I watched the play on Sunday and was 15minutes late to get there, by the time I got there, the play was already on its way. We should keep this going, start on time no matter what. I have to commend the production team for that, because it is easy to fall in to the inefficient pattern and say let’s wait for more people, but they didn’t.

What happens now?

This could be the start of resurrecting live drama back in Sierra Leone. Hopefully more old faces could join Streeter in future productions, but also a lot of new ones.

This play has the potential of reviving huge appetite for live drama. The production has set a really high bar with this first play, they delivered marvelously an incredibly difficult storyline.

The question now is, how do you sustain this appetite and this standard? I say, give us more.

A lot of us will be willing to dedicate three hours every weekend to come to the theatre and watch some live drama. So, I hope there is more in store for us.’

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SPENCER! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CAST OF ‘GBONGBOSORO’!! THEATRE IS ALIVE AGAIN!

The Academy thanks the following sponsors for support of the production:
Baker Tilly, GT Bank, Rokel Commercial Bank, Sierra Leone Commercial, Print Point,
VITO, Africell.



Donations

Donations received with gratitude

- From the British Council, 100 chairs
- Accounting services support from Baker Tilly



Announcements

Attention! Attention! If you're wondering how to draw your children away from the TV screen, or phone, have a look at what we're offering! A holiday music school....They will get to perform in our new Logie Wright Auditorium....with mics and spotlights....a special experience, to be sure! Enrol your child or give a child a scholarship to attend.

 BALLANTA ACADEMY OF MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

BALLANTA HOLIDAY SCHOOL


FOR KIDS
AGES: 4 - 13

DATE: Monday 18th July - Friday 5th August 2022
Days : Monday - Thursday each week
Location: 27 Liverpool Street Freetown
Time: 9:30am - 1:30 pm

SINGING, INSTRUMENTS, BODY PERCUSSION,
DANCE, STORY TELLING, AFRICAN MUSIC ETC

Registration: Le 200 **Tuition : Le 500**

#ENDS WITH A CONCERT # KIDS TO BRING SNACKS & DRINKS FOR LUNCH
REGISTRATION IS ON!!!!

WYSD WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

2022 Celebrations

Theme: "Transforming Youth Skills for the Future"

FREETOWN Methodist Girls High Sch. College Road Tuesday 12th July	MAKENI MADAM Conference Hall 250 Magburaka Highway Wednesday 13th July	BO Methodist Resource Center Dambala Road Friday 15th July
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8:30 am





Sponsors / Partners

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

- The Freetown City Council
- The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
- The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education
- 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
- Vista Bank
- British Council
- National Petroleum (SL)
- Baker Tilly
- Sierra Fishing Company
- Ma Dengn
- Print Point
- Bintumani Hotel
- Union Trust Bank
- Guaranty Trust Bank
- Africell

Our Partners

- American Montessori Academy
- British International School
- Awoko
- Premier Media
- C & K Consultancy
- YAS Learning Centre
- Salone Jamboree
- TVET Coalition
- Telem Freetown
- Tower Hill Kindergarten and Primary School
- JTReffell French Friendship Memorial School