



Di Klef -

The key to Ballanta Academy of Music
& Performing Arts

MAY

Sincere apologies to our regular readers, for the gap in newsletters. We will try to make up for it with the current one.

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BREAKING Breaking News *NEWS*

Exciting new development! The Academy appoints Lovelace Love-Harding to the position of Assistant to the Principal. We are most fortunate to welcome him back to the family of Ballanta. He brings a wealth of experience from his years teaching and performing in the Gambia and elsewhere after he left the Academy. To watch Lovelace perform on the various instruments is to marvel at his versatility. You have only to listen to his trumpet improvisations to know that he's a master of that instrument. His commitment to his art is crystal clear. His parallel career as a civil engineer can only be a big PLUS! Below, Lovelace teaches a song to a group of young children at the Saturday Music class.





TVET Coalition

The Ballanta Academy of Music and Performing Arts is a member of the TVET Coalition. This body meets once a month, and the venue rotates between members



TVET Coalition met on 31st May 2022 at Ballanta

One of the first things the new Assistant had to do was attend the Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership organized by the Global Youth Network and Solami Vocational Training Institute at Kissy where he advocated for music education to the audience gathered there on 5th May 2022. His presentation was so impressive that as a result, it piqued their interest and they promised to visit the Academy in the near future.



EVENTS

Our Groovy Colours band was invited to perform for guests at the EU Day celebrations on 9th May at the Radisson Blu Hotel. They looked resplendent in their new outfits! Guests were enchanted by their renditions of the Sierra Leone National Anthem, the EU Anthem and the Ukraine Anthem. For the rest of the evening they provided cool music for the distinguished guests on the patio by the pool.



**Groovy Colours at EU Day with
Dr. Julius Spencer**





Visit

We were honoured with a visit from Sunday Ginikachukwu Nweke, aka Masterkraft, who is among the top ten Nigerian record producers. He came to the Academy on the 12th May with his team of professional cameramen and sound engineers. Masterkraft is also a disc jockey, band director, pianist, and songwriter. On his visit to the academy, he worked with four students from the JT Reffell French Friendship Memorial School (who were attending post-NPSE Music classes at that time) and staff, starting them off on a charming four-line song 'I am a star, and I will shine, No matter what the world will bring, I will win' which he recorded, adding his own captivating pianistic accompaniment to it. He then layered contributions from Lovelace Love-Harding on the trumpet, Leslie Cummings-Wray on the saxophone, David Koroma with added lyrics, Kashor Woode with speech, another student with lyrics, and Kitty Fadlu-Deen with speech. He promised to complete the production of the song after he left the country. Before he left the academy, he jammed with Groovy, a most energetic, mind-blowing jazz session with our excited instrumentalists..... a totally unforgettable experience. Thank you Masterkraft!! We await the final product, to add to our list of accomplishments and claim to fame!



Masterkraft working on the song



Group picture with Masterkraft



Staff Outing

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy...and play the staff did, at their outing on 7th May at BawBaw Beach.



We had the joy of Auntie Lulu's company too!





Post NPSE Music Classes

After the pressure and tension of NPSE, we received four eager students from the JTReffell French Friendship Memorial School. They learned to play the keyboard from Senior Teacher Leslie Cummings-Wray. They also had lessons on the recorder, and singing. In June we will have 25 students from the Tower Hill Kindergarten and Primary School in a month long music programme...Ballanta is an exciting place to be!





Opening of the Port Loko Branch

Another exciting new development...we opened a branch in Port Loko, at Maforki New Town in partnership with PALAMA on 9th April 2022, under the care of Mr. Jaiah Kemokai. At the opening in the District Council Hall, pupils of the Schlenker Secondary School band and pupils of the Development Initiative Interim Care Home (orphanage) performed. Ballanta's Five Star Brass graced the occasion with their special brand of brass music. The event coincided with the visit of Stephan Flore, brass instrument expert from Germany who came for 2 weeks and worked with several brass bands in Freetown. Here are pictures from both events





NEWS

Other News

- Kläre Heyden, piano student at the Academy, will be leaving Sierra Leone after five years' service with GIZ in the health sector, for Germany. She very much enjoyed her Saturday piano lessons with Kitty Fadlu-Deen and Simeon Bangura in her time here. The lessons afforded her a pleasant diversion from the pressures of the work schedule that took her all over the country. She very kindly donated her electric piano and a beautiful desk to the Academy on her departure. We have also been fully supported by her and her friends at our events.
- Sadly we have to say goodbye to two more friends of Ballanta, Drs. James and Mary Bunn who in their time here were a part of the Ballanta Consort which later merged with the Ballanta Orchestra. We received a viola and a music stand as yet another gift from them.
- Also from the Consort/Orchestra, we reluctantly say goodbye to Dr. Emmanuel Bishop who will be furthering his medical (and probably musical experiences) studies in the U.K. For these four parting friends, so much an integral part of Ballanta, we echo the lyrics of the

Irish Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you
 May the wind be ever at your back
 May the sunshine warm upon your face
 And the rain fall soft upon your fields
 And until we meet again
 May God hold you, may God hold you
 Ever in the palm of his hand



Kläre Heyden



Dr. Emmanuel Bishop



L to R Dr Mary Bunn, Dr K. Fadlu-Deen, Dr James Bunn



Other News



Stephan's visit culminated in a well-attended brass band concert at St. Edward's School Hall where the bands he had been working with displayed music of their choice. <https://youtu.be/K4YgRdU3d-M>

Our Easter concert is online, and you can view it on https://youtu.be/fVPxXNC_ZwU

New sounds are emerging from our band room!! Check them out on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7XFBgAXCak> Let us know what you think!



Donations

- 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.
- €400 was received as scholarship donation from Voices of Sierra Leone UK Choir, who raised it from their Christmas concert in 2021. Presented by Collins Pratt and Lovetta.
- 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 growth of the academy.
- A 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 Krontiris, Le5,000,000 from Alhaji Jawad of the Family Kingdom, Le500,000 from the Dr. Steven Shongwe, WHO Representative.
- Donation of £50 from Dr. Esme Frazer in the UK
- Le20,000,000 from Sierra Fishing Company
- Le10,000,000 from Justice Adelaide Dworzak
- Le17,500,000 from Sierra Fishing Company to be a quarterly grant
- €480 from Mrs. Remmy Mahdi-Wermes to be an annual grant
- An acoustic guitar from Mr. Jonathan Nelson



Sponsorship / Partners

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

Our Partners

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- The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education
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