



Di Klef

The key to Ballanta Academy of Music
& Performing Arts

September / October 2022

Dear readers, welcome to the September/October edition of Di Klef. We continue to share the joys of learning, performing and giving as we start another academic year. We bring you more news of alumni who live and work in the UK.

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Learning



The holiday music school was such a success that a few wanted to extend their learning beyond the time, for another week.



Our new group, the Ballanta Brilliant Stars rehearse for the Anniversary Concert with Lovelace Love-Harding (below)





Learning

A new group has been formed, with young members of the neighbouring Kroo bay community. This will be the beginning of the Ballanta African Ballet as we encourage young people to learn music and dance of all ethnic groups in Sierra Leone. It is led by Abdul Bunduka of the Sabanoh Dancers with support from Egerton Maitland and Musa Ganda. Picture (below) is one of their rehearsals. Look out for their performances over the December holidays. Would you like to sponsor them?





Performing

The Students' Concert was held on Monday 17th October, 2022 at the new Logie Wright Auditorium, organized by Leslie Cummings-Wray, Senior Teacher. Top row, left to right: Vyvyenne Turay, Daniel Kpakiwa, Mariama Kamara, Ibrahim S. Bangura.

Lower row, left to right: Maxwell Akpa, Grace Ada Browne, ad hoc group of students





Performing

The **Anniversary Concert** was held on Friday 21st October 2022 at the Logie Wright Auditorium to a packed audience. The Wells Cathedral School team performed alongside our Ballanta musicians and invited performers. The following pictures capture the excitement of the night.

The **BAMPA Song**, with lyrics by K. Fadlu-Deen and music by Lovelace Love-Harding, was played for the first time!





Donations

The Academy wishes to thank the following for their donations:

- Mrs. Marcia Johnson, music books through Dr. Sonia Spencer (see picture below)
- Ms. Sheila Dallas for \$100
- Ms. Violet Gonda for \$100
- Wells Cathedral School for instruments: 3 trumpets, 1 ptrom-bone, 1 E flat horn, 1 clarinet, acoustic guitar strings and some music books.
- Wi-Fi connection from Africell





Visits

1) From 14th -24th October, the Wells Cathedral School team led by Madame Jules Desmarchelier. This team of 22 persons split their time between the JT Reffell French Friendship Memorial School (the non-musicians), and the Academy (the musicians). The latter spent four mornings sharing their musical experiences with our staff and students. The Academy was a hive of activity as learners moved from one room to the other with eagerness.





Visits

One of the highlights was a concert at the residence of the British High Commissioner, Ms. Lisa Chesney, where the audience were treated to music from the Wells and Ballanta musicians





Visits



2) Stephan Flore, expert from the Senior Experten Service (SES) of Germany visited from 16th October to 4th November 2022. Even though his work was mainly with the Sierra Leone Police band, he found time to teach at the Academy.





Visits

Both sets of visitors received gifts from the Academy at the end of the Anniversary Concert, presented by Ms. Andrina Coker, board director with chairman Dr. Julius Spencer looking on.

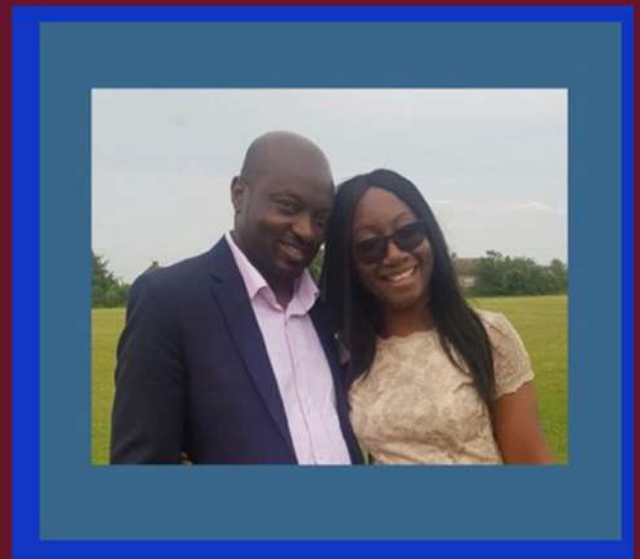




Illustrious Alumni

We continue to introduce you to our alumni, of whom we are so proud. In this edition, we have Pearlmira and Derek Vincent (right).

Pearlmira Vincent studied voice at the Utrecht Conservatoire in the Netherlands where she graduated with a Masters Degree with honours. Pearlmira works as a soloist, music tutor (for voice, piano and music theory towards a graded exams or just for wellbeing) and dedicates her time nurturing young minds through choir music.



Derek Vincent has a Dip ABRSM in piano performance. Derek has a varied music career as an organist, pianist, keyboardist and accompanist for choirs and soloists. He is a private tutor, teaching the piano and the theory of music. He has successfully guided many students through the theory of music and practical graded exams.

Finally, after years of experience, Pearlmira and Derek now run their own music company called Colourful Sounds. This company works predominantly to inspire young people by educating them and giving each and every one a platform to thrive and develop. Colourful Sounds not only prepares students for graded exams such as the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and the Trinity-Guildhall Examination board, it also runs a number of high quality concerts throughout the year. Derek and Pearlmira are blessed with two multi-instrumental children.



Members

Our list of members is growing. Please register your interest to be a member with us, either by calling +232 30632671 or sending an email to ballanta.info@gmail.com. Membership enrolment is ongoing and you have a chance to be part of the future development of this noble institution.



Miscellaneous

You are all invited to our Christmas concert on Friday 2nd December 2022 at Samaria WAM Church.

 BALLANTA ACADEMY OF MUSIC
& PERFORMING ARTS

Presents

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Concert will be honoured by the presence of
P.C. Komrabai Peter Penfold, former British High Commissioner

Featuring

Solos and Ensembles, and the Choir of the Milton Margai
School for the Blind

DATE: Friday 2nd December 2022

TIME: 5:00 PM

VENUE: Samaria WAM Church Waterloo Street

Envelopes can be requested from +232 30632671 or
from 27 Liverpool Street.
Start your Christmas festivities by supporting this memorable event.



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
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- Vista Bank
- Baker Tilly
- Awoko
- Premier Media
- Africell
- C & K Consultancy
- Sierra Fishing Company
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