



JAZZ ARTISTS ON THE GREENS 2012

PRESS KIT

PRODUCTION ONE LTD.



BACKGROUNDER

Ten years ago, four entrepreneurs with a shared passion for jazz music united to form the event management company, **Production One Limited**, with a vision to create a forum for Caribbean jazz music and to define a benchmark for live music events in the region. Driven to stay true to the jazz genre; to create opportunities for the showcasing of Caribbean jazz music; and to grow jazz music audiences in the region, Production One's founding members, brothers *Anton* and *Rolf Doyle* and jazz drummer, *Sean Thomas* and his wife, *Patrice*, supported by *Keith Niles* and siblings *Maria* and *Martin Wellington*, conceptualised the annual signature event, **Jazz Artists on the Greens (JAOTG)**.

In June 2003, JAOTG launched as an open-air festival-styled jazz concert housed on the University of the West Indies' (UWI's) campus at the Centre for Creative and Festival Arts in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. The inaugural JAOTG offered a decorated cast including internationally renowned pianist, composer and arranger, *Ken "Professor" Philmore* and his ensemble; calypso jazz fusion group, *élan parlé*, led by experimental keyboardist, *Michael "Ming" Low-Chew-Tung*; internationally renowned Indo-Caribbean fusion sitarist, *Mungal Patasar* and his band *Pantar*; and the *Sean Thomas Quartet* featuring US-based saxophonist, composer and educator, *Grant Langford*.

Through the years, some of the Caribbean's leading jazz musicians and singers have graced the JAOTG stage. The illustrious list of performers has included Denmark-based Trinidadian pianist extraordinaire, *Rudy "Two-Left" Smith* (2004); Dominica's Cultural Ambassador and leading kweyol (Creole) fusion jazz singer, *Michele Henderson*; decorated Barbadian saxophonist, *Arturo Tappin* (2007); Trinidadian calypso-jazz pianist and composer, *Raf Robertson* (2007); Trinidad-based Caribbean jazz ensemble, *MOYENNE* featuring *Chantal Esdelle* (2007); Trinidad and Tobago's jazz, blues and ballad artist, *Patti Rogers* (2007); Martinique-based St. Lucian saxophone and flute pioneer, *Luther François* (2008); charismatic Barbadian singer, *Marisa Lindsay* (2008/2011); Brazil's master trumpeter and UN Cultural Ambassador, *Claudio Roditi* (2008); internationally renowned Brazilian bassist, *Nilson Matta* (2008/2009); the all-female Cuban trio, the *Tamara Castañeda Trio*, led by vibraphone sensation, *Tamara Castañeda* (2009); Trinidadian earthy jazz vocalist, *Vaughnette Bigford* (2009); female-led Afro-Cuban jazz group, *Bellita y JazzTumbatá* (2009); Toronto-based Trinidadian saxophonist, *Nick "Brownman" Ali* (2010); and Toronto-based Grenadian songwriter, arranger and producer, *Eddie Bullen* (2011). JAOTG's success in Trinidad birthed its Tobago variant on the sister island where much-talked-about beachfront concerts were produced in 2008 and 2009.

2009 proved to be a year of many transformations for Production One. Founding members *Sean* and *Patrice Thomas* moved on to new endeavours while music lover *Nigel Campbell* joined the team. The company diversified its event portfolio launching a monthly concert

series, **SONGBIRDS...live**, with an aim to highlight Caribbean female vocalists with an ear tuned to jazz and World music.

Production One's uncompromising dedication to the highest standards in event production has drawn attention to the company as a leading concert producer with a loyal fan base whose annual itinerary prominently features JAOTG. In 2008, this reputation garnered Production One the attention of the *United Nations System in Trinidad and Tobago* who retained the event management company to produce a free concert, **FREEDOM RAIN: The UN Concert for Human Rights and Justice**, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The multifaceted event presented some of Trinidad and Tobago's foremost artists including *3canal* and *Kees Dieffenthaler*. Following this, the *Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad and Tobago* approached the event producer in 2010 to produce a Mexican-themed evening of Latin-jazz, **MÉXICAN journey**, featuring jazz pianist, *Héctor Infanzón*.

This year, Production One will present the 10th anniversary edition of its flagship event, JAOTG. To mark this milestone and to celebrate a decade of excellence in concert production, the veteran event management company will launch an annual music education programme, **Jazz BuddZ**. This groundbreaking programme aims to bring members of the community, classical and jazz musicians and the Production One team together with a goal to provide music training for Trinidad and Tobago's at-risk youth.

As Production One seeks to increase its social responsibility and grow Caribbean jazz music audiences by inculcating an appreciation for the art-form in young minds, jazz and world music lovers can look forward to another year of fine Caribbean jazz at JAOTG 2012 on the Greens at Farm Road, St. Joseph on Saturday March 24, 2012.

VISION

The consistent production of top-quality Jazz concerts and similar events that begin punctually, run smoothly and which leave patrons, concessionaires and sponsors well satisfied.

MISSION

To establish a commercially profitable production entity that provides opportunities for local and other Caribbean Jazz artists to show their fare, and to actively contribute to the sourcing and facilitation of additional avenues for the re-growth of Jazz in Trinidad and Tobago.

For more information, please contact:

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MICHELE HENDERSON

Whether it's in English, French or kweyol (Creole); zouk, R&B, jazz, reggae or retro soul, the accolades are consistent. Michele Henderson is fast becoming one of the Caribbean's premier female vocal talents. No stranger to the entertainment scene in her native land of Dominica, Michele's status as an all rounder – writer, flautist and vocalist – is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the Caribbean and further a field with every performance. She has been featured in Caribbean magazines such as *SHE Caribbean*, *Home Companion*, *MACO*, *Caribbean Beat* and *The Beat*; on regional television programmes such as *Caribscope* and *E-zone*; and in the international media including the cover of German travel magazine, *Karibik Journal* and *BET Jazz*. Michele has taken her kweyol fusion jazz music to stages regionally and internationally including *Dominica's World Creole Music Festival*; the *St. Lucia Jazz Festival*; the *UCLA Jazz & Reggae Festival* in Los Angeles; and the *Roskilde Festival* in Denmark. The

Dominican government recognised her cultural contributions to her homeland with her official appointment as a Goodwill Ambassador in 2004. In 2008, Michele released her 5th album, **Sa Kai**, a tribute to creole music. Sa Kai continues to receive shining reviews producing two smash hits, *Pani Pawol* and *Pou Tout ma Vie*.

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CARLTON “ZANDA” ALEXANDER



Carlton Alexander, known in musical circles as "Zanda", has established a strong name in his native country of Trinidad and Tobago where he enjoys being a pan jazz piano player and steelpan arranger. Zanda's musical genius was acknowledged at an early age. As a teenager, he was the pianist at his church as well as the musical coordinator for the *Siparia Best Village Group*, all before migrating to Canada to pursue his studies in architecture and environmental design. Five years later, he was privileged to study under the world-renowned bebop legend and four-time Grammy Award winner, *Barry Harris*. In 1990, Zanda formed the *Coalpot Band* while living in Toronto, which served as the catalyst for other Canadian-based Caribbean jazz outfits such as *Kalabash*. Since 1995, he has continued the band in Trinidad using talented local musicians. Zanda is a much sought after jazz clinician lecturing on various topics ranging from steelpan awareness to the fundamentals of improvisation. Over the last thirty years,

he has performed at jazz festivals in the Caribbean and in Canada.

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ANNISE HADEED RICHARD BAILEY THERON SHAW DOUGLAS REDON

ANNISE HADEED

London-based Trinidadian steelpan virtuoso, Annise Hadeed, is a leading figure in his field of music as soloist, composer, international recording artist and freelance musician. His musical career spans over twenty-five years, during which he has performed at *The Berlin Jazz Festival*, *Camden Jazz Festival*, *Capital Music Festival*, *Nylon Folk Festival* and the *Anglo-Polish Meeting*. As a top steelband arranger, Annise has worked with the UK's *Ebony Steel Band* and several bands in Trinidad including *Solo Harmonites*, *Phase II Pangroove*, *TCL Skiffle Bunch*, *PCS Starlift* and *Merry Tones*. For the 10th anniversary edition of Jazz Artists on the Greens, he will be performing with fellow UK-based Caribbean jazz drummer, *Richard Bailey*; guitarist, *Theron Shaw*; and first-call bassist, *Douglas Redon*.

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CLIFFORD CHARLES

Whenever asked what's his passion, smooth jazz guitarist, Clifford Charles, with eyes glinting, declares, *"It's music...or nothing."* This definitely shows as scores of fans of his home-grown brand of silky-smooth, Caribbean jazz music, are convinced that Clifford is set to take on the world. Years of experience on the calypso and soca circuit sharpened Clifford's fiery, yet free-flowing style on the guitar. Although he lists *Wes Montgomery*, *Charlie Christian* and Trinidad's *Fitzroy Coleman* among his influences, he credits *Jim Phillips* (pianist) for introducing him to the soulful grooves of *George Benson*. And that was when jazz...smooth jazz won out. For Clifford, jazz is the musical expression that brings the greatest satisfaction to both artist and audience when he commands a stage.

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LLETTESHA SYLVESTER

Llettesha Sylvester has been singing for over 10 years in St. Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago. She has used her God-given talents to firstly bless individuals in her church, after which she decided to take these talents and work on them. She studied voice and music under the tutelage of *Jessel Murray, Charles Brunner, Eldon Blackman* and *Vertrelle Mickens*. Her favourite genres – jazz, gospel and classical music – have shaped her singing preferences. *"I listen to a lot of music. I don't watch much TV. If I do, I'm on the Arts Channel or Centric listening to music. I feel moved when I hear Ella Fitzgerald - I really love her voice. Singers like her inspire me."* As an award-winning vocalist at various music festivals, Llettesha has branched out into vocal work in-studio with gospel singers, and has ventured into singing jazz live. She is also preparing to release an upcoming CD featuring her original songs.

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