

Mannette to start own music school

Master pannist and arranger Barry Mannette will host a concert tonight at the Kaiso Blues Café. The show is a fundraiser for seed money to start his own school, the Mannette Academy of Music.

Born into a storied steelband family and cutting his teeth amidst the pans of the legendary Invaders Steel Orchestra, Barry Mannette earned a master's in music at the Northern Illinois University under Prof Liam Teague after reading for his bachelor's at **UWI**, St Augustine.

As a solo artist and member of various ensembles he has often showcased his talent in the US.

He has performed in the Montreal International Steelpan Festival in Canada, at the Iguazu in Concert mega-festival in Argentina, and as far afield as Japan's Yamaha Hall.

Mannette has arranged for the junior and senior Starlift Steel Orchestra both here and abroad, and for the St Vincent steelband South East Steel Orchestra among other orchestras. He is the director of the **UWI** Arts Intermediate Ensemble. As a music educator,

Mannette has taught music and steelpan performance in the US and at home; he lectures in music at **UWI**, St Augustine, and is the principal of the developmental programme Exodus School for Music and the Arts.

"I have been teaching steelpan and music for over 20 years with remarkable success at various institutions and bands, locally, regionally and internationally," Mannette said.

"I've decided that it's time to open my own music academy where I can continue to mould and create young pannists and musicians in general who are music literate."

The show takes place at the Kaiso Blues Café, Woodford Street, Newtown, Port-of-Spain; showtime is 7 pm.

Guest artistes will include Tobago pan prodigy Keishaun Julien; Noelle Archer, second place winner of the 2015 Digital Rising Stars; jazz keyboardist Adan Hagley; drummer Alanna White; and others.

There will also be a special performance by pan soloist and arranger Natasha Joseph.