

FEATURES

DCFA's Joyful Two preview concert

THE **UWI** Arts Chorale, the premier choral ensemble of the University of the West Indies (**UWI**), St Augustine Campus, and the **UWI** Arts Steel, the premier steelband ensemble, will tour Belize and Mexico in July.

The two groups will present a preview concert, Joyful Two, on Sunday at the Holy Rosary RC Church, Henry Street in Port of Spain at 6pm. Jessel Murray, senior lecturer at **UWI** and head of the Department of Festival and Creative Arts (DCFA), will conduct the ensembles.

To tour to Belize and Mexico will kick-start the DCFA's 30th anniversary celebrations. The tour is from July 18 to 28.

UWI is the largest institution of higher learning in the English-speaking Caribbean with campuses in Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, and the Open Campus. Belize is part of the Open Campus system. In Belize, the chorale and steel will be hosted by the University of Belize and will perform formal concerts at various locations, including the country's premier concert site, the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts, as well as the University of Belize in the capital, Belmopan.

While at the university, the two groups will form part of the installation ceremony of Prof Clement Sankat as the president of the university. Sankat was most recently the principal of **UWI**, St Augustine. In Mexico, the chorale and steel have been in-

vited to perform at the University of Quintana Roo in Chetumal.

Previous tours by the chorale and steel have included performances in Barbados, Martinique, Massachusetts and New York.

Joyful Two is a mélange of performances featuring exciting performances by the **UWI** Arts Chorale and Steel – as well as vocal and pan soloists. The chorale performs excerpts from the Brahms *Zigeunerlieder* (Gypsy Songs) in the original German, as well as Broadway selections, folk and calypso music including their well-known treatment of David Rudder's Calypso Music.

The steel performs the world premiere of a Jeannine Remy work, Overture, as well as arrangements of classic and not so classic calypso/soca – Pan in Harmony and Ah Feeling ah Feeling, among others. Together, the chorale and steel perform the famous and popular Schubert Mass in G, originally set for voices and strings. The programme is enlivened with pan solos as well as solos and duos from the chorale's vast treasury of musical theatre, including Andrew Lloyd Webber selections and the virtuoso Glitter and Be Gay aria from *Candide* sung by soloist Sadie Baxter.

Tickets cost \$150 each and are available from **UWI** Arts Chorale and **UWI** Arts Steel members, the Rosary Church Office and at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts.



The **UWI** Arts Chorale



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development

IN COMMEMORATION OF
LABOUR DAY 2017

“Keep Pushing Forward”



Every year on Labour Day, June 19, we recognise the collective struggle of the Labour Movement, which over the last 80 years has fought for workers' benefits, wages and rights. Our nation was built and continues to grow through the efforts of the hard-working men and women whose contributions often go without praise.

We cannot deny the significance of Labour Day. We remember and recognize those who have championed the rights and benefits we all enjoy today. I put it to you though that every day we remember those who have cleared a path, charted a course for us to **keep pushing forward**.

We honour you, the hardworking men and women of our beloved Trinidad and Tobago. You, who know the hardships of making ends meet. You, who struggle through adversity because you want a better future for your children. You, who have been working hard for a better country. You who laboured through times of plenty and now, when times are lean you **keep pushing forward**.

As we continue to navigate this economic storm, we set our figurative sails on a course where we do not permit the gales of negativity to determine our destination. We are in tough times. There is the expectation for us to deliver more, often with fewer resources but in the midst of this all we must honour and respect the rights and responsibilities of both Employers and the Workers. This Government is committed to maintaining a stable industrial relations climate and providing the level of protection our citizenry deserves as we **keep pushing forward**.

This Government has been on an aggressive and robust legislative agenda to update our antiquated and archaic Labour Laws. Over the last eighteen months this Ministry has held eleven national, tripartite stakeholder consultations with the aim of amending our Labour Legislation. In January 2016, we started with the National Stakeholder Consultation on Amendment of Co-operatives Bill (2014), followed by a National Stakeholder Consultation on the Amendment of the

Industrial Relations Act, Chapter 88:01. Tripartite Stakeholders came together for Consultations on Contract Labour; the Amendment of the Retrenchment and Severance Benefits Act, Chapter 88:13; Basic Terms & Conditions of Work Code and a National Forum on the Future of Work in Trinidad and Tobago.

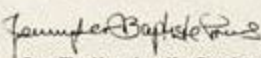
In November 2016, the Ministry of Labour held an Internal Stakeholder Consultation on the Strengthening of Societies Registered Under the Friendly Societies Act, Chapter 32:50. This served as a catalyst for the hosting of a National Stakeholder Consultation dedicated to the Functioning of Lodges and Orders Under Friendly Societies Act, Chapter 32:05.

We kept on pushing in 2017 with a National Stakeholder Consultation on the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies Act, Chapter 39:51, followed by a National Stakeholder Consultation on the Amendment of the OSHA Act, Chapter 88:08; and a National Stakeholder Consultation on the Workmen's Compensation Act, Chapter 88:05.

To date, there are four Draft Policy Position Papers before the Cabinet for consideration on - the Amendment of the Industrial Relations Act Chapter 88:01, the Retrenchment and Severance Benefit Act Chapter 88:13, the Amendment of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies Act, Chapter 39:51 and Contract Labour- Reducing our Dependency. Based on the feedback from these consultations, **I am pushing forward**... pushing to ensure that Decent Work is practised in every workplace, pushing for greater protection of workers and pushing for increased levels of productivity.

We celebrate the achievements of the Labour Movement of our beloved Trinidad and Tobago, over the last eighty years. We reflect on our past as we **keep pushing forward**.

May God bless our Nation


Sen. The Hon. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus
 Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development