

Young pannists get off to 'Right Start'

Bank-sponsored music programme sends students to UWI

DIXIE-ANN DICKSON

Some 161 students have received entry level certificates to the University of the West Indies, St Augustine (UWI) music programme.

The certificates were presented during Republic Bank's Right Start Pan Minor Music Literacy scholarship awards and graduation exercise, held yesterday at Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre in St Ann's.

The students, who were nominated from schools throughout T&T, received their certificates following the completion of a three-week programme, hosted jointly by the UWI Creative and Festival Arts Centre and Bishop Anstey High School (East), under the patronage of the Republic Bank.

"The certificates can be used to enter the music certificate programme at UWI," said Michelle Amoroso, coordinator of the programme.

She added: "The certificates are accredited by the university. The purpose of the programme is to hone their knowledge and develop their skills some more."

The programme was taught by

RESPECT FOR PAN

The bank's managing director David Dulal-Whiteway, who presented the certificates, said the "steel pan should be treated with respect."

He said, "A major part of that calls for its legacy to endure and the only way to achieve this is by cultivating a profound appreciation within our young people."

SCHOLARSHIPS

From the pool of 161 students, the top ten were awarded scholarships of a Right Start account.

The top two achievers were Mischa Skinner and Ariel Burke. The duo each received \$500, while the others received \$250 each.

UWI music lecturers and was totally funded by the bank, which provided books, tutors, instruments and venues. It teaches both oral reading and theory, she said.

"The oral aspect entails training the eye for what is written and the ears to listen keenly," skills which would be an asset to any young music professional, Amoroso added.

"Beating pan is long gone. Music literacy is the mantra of the day," she said.

Grateful for the opportunity, valedictorian Tishanna Mitchell said, "Music is always her greatest passion."

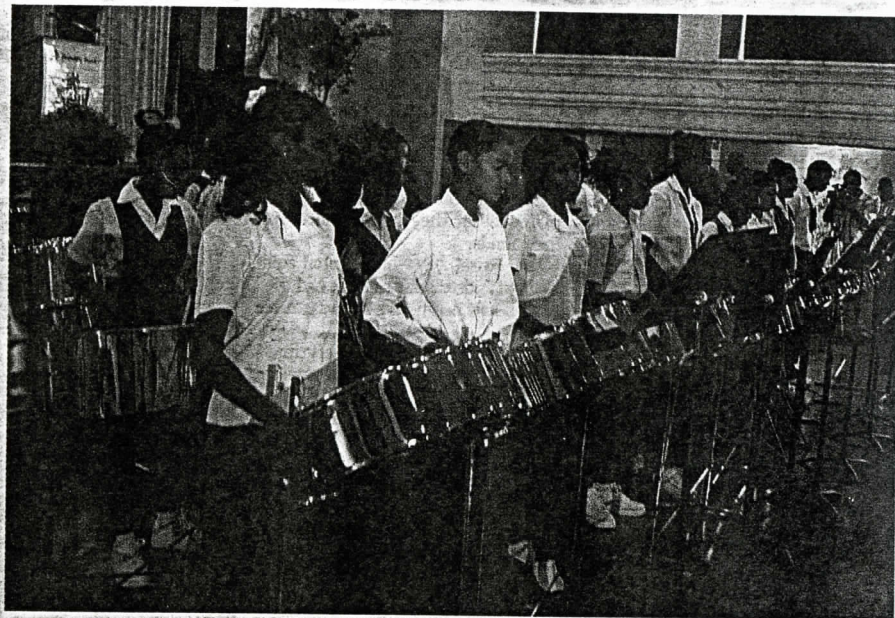
"Music is a universal language that can bring people together," she said.

She said music taught her life lessons and fostered the development of lifelong friendships.

Fellow valedictorian Malaina Moffett, in giving her thanks, said, "The programme offered me new challenges, increased my knowledge base, and enhanced and developed my skills."

"I have improved in both social and interactive skills, which are vital in today's world."

Certificates are expected to be presented tomorrow in Tobago, during a similar exercise.



Above: Students of Republic Bank's Right Start Pan Minor Music Literacy scholarship go through perform at yesterday's awards and graduation exercise, held yesterday at Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre in St Ann's.



Left: Managing director of Republic Bank David Dulal-Whiteway, centre, presents gift vouchers to top students Mischa Skinner, left, and Ariel Burke, at yesterday's Pan Minors Music Scholarship graduation ceremony.

PHOTOS: SHIRLEY BAHADJUR