

Welcome to this first edition of *DI 13 L&F* (Fr cle = key) We aim to open the door to reveal the latest news at Ballanta, your favourite music school

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### Music for Landslide Victims

Sierra Leone saw yet another disaster on August 14, 2017. Our reaction -**How can Ballanta help? We don't** have financial resources but we certainly have MUSIC! In response to our query as to where we could make music for the children of this August disaster, Dr. Lang Ma at UNICEF pointed us in the direction of Don Bosco Fambul. Director Fr. Jorge welcomed us with open arms and a green flag to go ahead. Two volunteers from Ballanta, Mohamed Dainkeh and Simeon Bangura started music with two sets of children in the cramped space where mothers and the very young were temporarily sleeping on mattresses. When the excitement and curiosity of the children was awakened, Fr. Jorge agreed to extend this experience to keyboard and brass instruments so the next stage will see instrumental music beginning in this temporary facility.



Left: Simeon Bangura and Mohamed Dainkeh at Don Bosco Fambul with children of landslide disaster

#### APPOINTMENT

Dr. Kitty Fadlu-Deen has been appointed Principal a.i. after the resignation of the Consultant Principal Mrs. Margaret Fyle at the end of August 2017.



Bafa Night is live again

### Gift of Laptops

Computers4Africa, a charity in the UK, donated 3 refurbished laptops to the academy. They will be used in the workshop to be run by German SES expert Stephan Flore in October. Staff will learn how to use music notation software to professionalise the look of their music amongst other things. CEO of Computers4Africa George Cook said, "They are our contribution to the recovery effort after Ebola, and music is a powerful tool to accomplish this". George Cook is the father of Jessica Cook whose music and dance talent endeared her to the people she worked with in her volunteer capacity at Ballanta in 2015.



Above Right: Staff with laptops. Above Left: Dr. K. Fadlu-Deen receives the laptops from Bevil Williams, MD.

### GROOVY OFF TO ADDIS ABABA (culled from the Awoko 11 Sept.2017)



Ballanta's jazz band *Groovy Colours* who are also staff at Sierra Leone's prestigious music academy has departed for the second East African Global Music Campus in Addis Ababa this week. The seven musicians will be there for three weeks, developing a proper professional training program for young musicians. The program is co-funded by the Goethe Institut and the European Union. The training is based on a curriculum prepared by the Global Music Academy of Berlin. Along with their East African counterparts from Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan they will learn how to use a new music education system for professional music education based on African music in the region.

Last year, with the sponsorship mainly provided by Freetown Nominees, the trainees were introduced to the curriculum for Body Percussion, Rhythmic Reading and Writing, Harmony and Keyboard Harmony. They also received Main Instrument lessons and Ensemble classes.

Will Ramsay, artistic director of the program says, 'Ultimately the program will allow all the institutions participating to develop their own professional music education programs focused on their own musical culture and equip them with the skills to transcribe and transform their rich music traditions into modern teaching materials for the benefit of the society at large'.

Something good is happening with music education. Something good is happening to Sierra Leone. Let us support music education. Let us support Ballanta



*African dance classes are on Saturdays. So are Music and Dance Classes, and group keyboard. The kids are having fun!*

**BALLANTA'S DONNA FAULKNER GOES TO CHINA.**



*Donna Felicia Faulkner*, sixth form student at Limount College, will represent Ballanta Academy of Music at the forthcoming Asian African Youth Festival from

21 – 27 September 2017 in Quanzhou, China. Donna is one of the vocalists with Groovy Colours, the resident band of Ballanta. She will have a repertoire of songs arranged for her to showcase Sierra Leone when asked to perform at the Festival. "I'm very excited and a little nervous," she said before she left.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Picture gallery of The East African Global Music Campus Addis Ababa, Sept 9 – 30, 2017*



*James Laundeh & Leslie Cummings-Wray with teacher Martin*



*Musa with teacher Dietrich*



*Above Left: Christopher James and James Laundeh with teacher Martin. Above Right: David Koroma practicing*



*Above Right: Joecelia Gbondo and Musa Ganda with teacher Prudence. Above Left: Advanced group in body percussion with Dietrich*



*The Sierra Leone team with their teachers*