

Lifestyles

Christmastide 2008

Celebrate Christmastide with the Bel Canto Singers

By **KARAN MINNIS**
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Just months after his death, the late Solomon Wellington Adderley, former administrator for the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas, is finally getting his just reward. The 2008 Christmastide production, held each year by the Bel Canto Singers, will be held in his memory.

Set to be held on Saturday, November 29 at St. Andrew's (The Kirk) from 8:15 p.m. - until, this year's event will feature two international performing artists, Martine Cardinal, a violinist, and Alexandre Da Costa, a violinist/pianist, and the Bel Canto Singers. And according to Eldridge McPhee, the event's producer, this year's event, which is to be held under the patronage of the Governor General, the Honorable Arthur D. Hanna, promises to be enjoyable, as yuletide music from various countries and periods will be performed.

"This year I am pleased to present violin virtuoso and recording artist Martine Cardinal of Montreal, Canada along with String Quartet 'Strings 'n' Tings' as a part of the 2008 Christmastide performance," he explains. "Alexandre Da Costa of Montreal Canada, will be performing. Alexandre showed an uncommon interest for both the violin and piano at a very early age. By the age of nine, he had the astounding ability to perform his first concerts with stunning virtuosity on both instruments, which brought him recognition as a musical prodigy."

McPhee, the director of the Bel Canto Singers, directs the vocal ensemble of 14 singers and says through his work he's about to fulfill another one of his visions - to bring a consortium of music to the Bahamian stage.

"When the evening opens, the audience will be thrilled with a rendition of 'A Fanfare for Christmas' by modern-day composer, Robin Wells," said McPhee. "Then they will be delighted by Morten Lauridsen's 'O Magnum Mysterium' which is nothing short of an angelic interpretation of the birth of Christ. Additionally throughout the evening you will hear several renditions of traditional carols from England, France and Poland. Further, you will hear beautiful six and eight part arrangements of well known carols that will highlight the rich and robust singing style that Bel Canto has become well known for executing."

Dionne Cunningham, an accomplished and lettered musician, who teaches at Kingsway Academy and who is quickly making a name for himself in this community, will also accompany the group. According to McPhee, Cunningham will even attempt to transport the audience through music to a winter wonderland with his piano rendition of a portion of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's, "The Nutcracker Suite".

"For the past three years, I have been realizing my vision; to work with individuals, through musical productions, to have an impact on the lives of our members thereby impacting their communities," says McPhee. "The mark of a good leader is one who is disciplined. And after having studied music for

some 35 years, I know that talent and discipline create success. This formula is not unique to music."

Over the past three years the Bel Canto Singers, through their annual production of Christmastide, have raised more than \$27,000 net for charities, including the AIDS Foundation. This year they plan to do the same. Though their work they have seen much than profit for the charities. McPhee says over the past three years the BCS members have grown as musicians as well as husbands, wives and partners and parents.

"But more importantly, I have seen members of this group come to learn and to understand what it means to become points of light, in their workplaces, churches, civic organizations and at play," he says.

Tickets for this year's event are

\$75. They include a concert, silent auction and full gourmet buffet reception sumptuously prepared by Chef Brenda Johnson of Money Penny Catering.

Please note that this year's concert will also be recorded as the group endeavors to reach more persons through the sale of compact discs (CD's).

For tickets or further information, please call (242)431-6440 or e-mail info@mbproductionsbahamas.com.

Action!

It's time for the Fifth Annual Bahamas Film Festival

By **KARAN MINNIS**
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For the fifth year in a row the Bahamas Film Festival (BFF) is taking over the island as it gets a headstart on the weekend with two days of activities from Nov 27 - 28.

The star attraction - "Changes" by Charles Kemp.

"It's a film based on a college student who finds his father accidentally after being sent out on a project to study human behavior," said Kemp at a press conference to announce the event.

Kemp's film "Changes" will headline the 2008 Film Festival which kicks off with the movie's premiere on Nov. 27 at Galleria Cinemas, JFK.

"When we first started out, we had people making movies, films in their own corners and all this did was bring people together under one venue," said Festival founder Celi Moss during a recent press conference. "Whether we have a lot of films or not as much, it's the idea of keeping filmmaking alive in The Bahamas."

"The film festival isn't caught up on numbers. It's about a movement. Every year you're keeping the idea of film alive in The Bahamas because there was a period where nothing was happening and we don't want that to happen again."

Ministry of Tourism Film Commissioner Craig Woods calls the event the short-term investment needed in the local film industry.

"Celi's Festival is basically the farm team for every other festival in the world, in addition to the Bahamas International Film Festival," says Woods. "Celi is developing young Bahamians who are developing their product, developing their skill, so that they can have products to enter in the Bahamas International Film Festival or any other film festival around the world. And hopefully, as they enter these film festivals, they get recognized, they win awards, they meet people, they network with important people who can see their ability then give them some exposure."

EVENT: THE BAHAMAS FILM FESTIVAL

Event Schedule:

Nov. 27, Opening Day
Official opening to be carried live on Love 97 FM and ZNS TV 13
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Opening movie "Changes"
Galleria Cinemas, JFK
9pm - 10 p.m.

After Party, Tambrind Tree Club
Tonique Williams Darling Highway
10 p.m. until

Nov. 28, Closing Day
"From low budget to Hollywood blockbuster" panel discussion featuring the cast and crew of opening movie "Changes," to be aired on Love 97FM, "Issues of the Day"
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Filmmakers spotlight featuring "Changes" veteran star actor Rudy Levarity, to be aired on JCN Channel 14
7:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

After Party
Tambrind Tree Club
10 p.m. until

HMP inmate Choir produce gospel CD

By **STAFF WRITER**
For the Guardian

Prison Superintendent Dr. Elliston Rahming made a courtesy call on the Minister of National Security, Hon. Tommy Turnquest, to present him with a copy of the Prison Inmates Choir's first Gospel CD.

Minister Turnquest applauded the inmates for their efforts as well as the officers and volunteers that assisted with the project. He called the CD proj-

ect "yet another demonstration of prison reform in action."

After months of preparation with the dedicated contribution of Alfred Dean of the Department of Culture, the choir finally realized its goal of releasing the CD under the theme: "God is not finished with me yet."

The Group is set to celebrate its accomplishment in a grand concert at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday November 30 at the Coconut Grove Church of God Temple "Josey Church."



REFORM

Prison officials pay a courtesy call on Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest and present him with a copy of the Inmate Choir's gospel CD.