

ADDRESS BY
RICHARD P. YOUNG, MANAGING DIRECTOR
AT THE GALA OPENING OF THE
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MUSIC FESTIVAL 2006
QUEEN'S HALL
SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2006

His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago;

Senator the Honourable Joan Yuille-Williams, Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs;

Senator the Honourable Hazel Manning, Minister of Education;

Dr. Dorrell Philip, Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association;

Mrs. Joslyne Sealey, Secretary/Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association;

Distinguished adjudicators, Dr. Olive Lewin and Dr. Bruce Trinkley;

Mr. Robert Riley, Chief Executive Officer of BP Trinidad & Tobago Llc;

Specially invited guests, performers, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour to be invited here this evening to address you at this, the Gala Opening of the 2006 Music Festival. It is also our distinct pleasure at Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited to partner with the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association and BP Trinidad and Tobago Llc in the execution of this most worthwhile and prestigious event.

As you may be aware, Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited has been actively involved in supporting the music industry of Trinidad and Tobago through our biennial sponsorship of the National Music Festival. By extension, as gold sponsors, we view this event as a means of stimulating our young people to become involved in the local arts and culture, and to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our society.

This is because time and again, research has consistently shown that musical study develops critical thinking and self-discipline skills and improves a child's early cognitive development, basic math and reading abilities, self-esteem, spatial reasoning skills, and school attendance. Skills learned through the discipline of music, transfer to study skills and communication skills, useful in every part of the curriculum in our education system.

Apart from the educational aspect of music, its impact is also felt at the national level, whether we realize it or not. Ladies and gentlemen, it is noteworthy that each year in Trinidad and Tobago, our music and culture consistently grow in importance in terms of its contribution to our economy.

According to a study done by UNESCO, in most countries of the industrialized and developing world, music stands as one of the most significant of the creative industries, whether assessed in economic or cultural terms. It is for this reason that we must place more resources into its development.

Yet there is something of a paradox about music as a creative industry. On the one hand, music is a primary form of artistic expression as it is one of primary means by which cultures define themselves.

On the other hand, music is a relentlessly commercial industry generating billions of dollars in revenues for composers, performers, publishers, record companies and many other players. Furthermore, it is often said that music is the universal language of mankind.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the music industry may be operating on a smaller scale, but I dare say, it is by no means a less valuable asset. And I must add that from a historical perspective, the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival has indeed played a pivotal role in its developmental process.

Among the festival participants of the past, are well known performers such as Maurice Brash, Wendell Constantine, Enrique Ali, Murchison Jarrette and Dr. Pat Bishop. Of course, these individuals have also benefited from the dedicated teachers within our education system, who understand the innate benefits of music education.

These benefits can be grouped into four categories of success, namely:

- ❖ Success in society
- ❖ Success in school
- ❖ Success in developing intelligence
- ❖ Success in life

In closing ladies and gentlemen, tonight I would like to reiterate that we at Scotiabank stand committed to assisting our communities in the attainment of success. We will continue to focus on the overall social development of Trinidad and Tobago, building upon the areas of education, art and culture, sports and health both at the national and community levels.

On behalf of the management and staff of Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited, allow me to extend best wishes to the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association for a successful and rewarding Music Festival 2006. To the participants, best of luck as you compete, but remember to take the time to enjoy the moment. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.