



Embajada  
de la República Federal de Alemania  
Santo Domingo



GOETHE-INSTITUT

# GERMAN JAZZ “KITE DUO”

**Franz Bauer** (Marimbaphon, Vibraphon, Percussion)

**Dirk Strakhof** (Double bass)

Martes 11 de marzo

9 p.m.

Casa de Teatro

• info: [www.casateatro.com](http://www.casateatro.com)



# Cultural fusion

**C**ELEBRATED musician Clive Zanda defined last Sunday's concert featuring German act Kite Duo as a cross-cultural experience. The event at the Central Bank Auditorium saw the German artistes blending their music with that of several locals including Zanda on piano, bassist Russell Durity and the Northwest Laventille Cultural Movement led by Donald Noel. After each of the acts had an opportunity to showcase their respective skills and styles of music, they all gathered together on stage to play an improvisational arrangement to the theme of *The Journey Now Start*. The audience was having just as much fun as were the musicians on the stage. The Kit Duo consists of Franz Bauer who plays the vibraphone as well as percussion and bass player Dirk Strakhof.



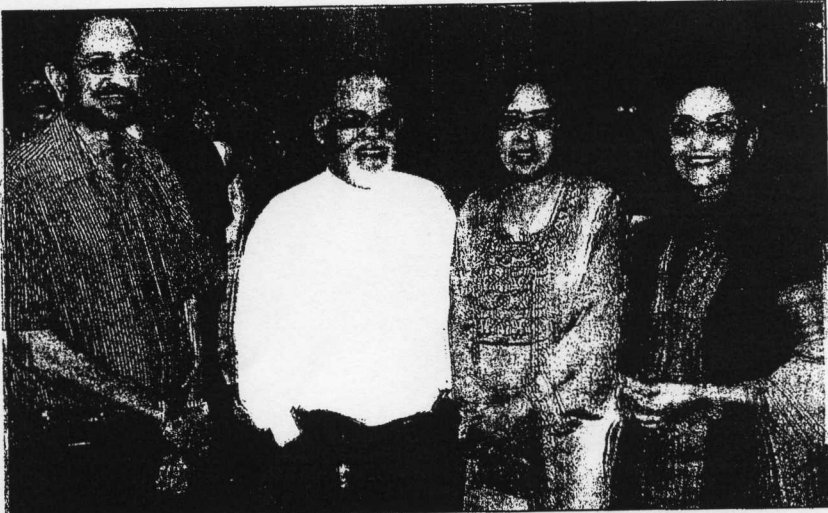
Let us know: if you're having an event you would like to see in the *Toute Bagai* column please send information to: Deborah John, Features Editor, Trinidad Express, 35 Independence Sq., Port of Spain or call 622-1711 ext 3940 or e-mail djohn@trinidadexpress.com



**CHIT-CHAT:** Above, Harold Moylan, German Ambassador Dr Ernst Martens and Marina Salandy-Brown.

Left, the wife of the German Ambassador, Christine Martens, and Sonja Horbach, the Dutch Ambassador's wife.

Right, Jaspal Bhogal, Mungal Patasar, Roshni Patasar and Jasbir Bhogal.  
— Photos: WAYNE BOWMAN



**MEN TALK:** Keithson Brindley with Barry Garcia and Willie Isaacson.

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## TALK OF TRINIDAD

with ANDRE ALEXANDER



FRANZ BAUER, left, and DIRK STRAKHOF, the Kite Duo from Germany.

## German jazz duo thrills Central Bank

THERE was hardly an empty seat in the Central Bank Auditorium last Sunday when the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted a Cross Cultural Experience, featuring the Kite Duo from Germany, Franz Bauer on vibraphone, and Dirk Strakhof on double bass.

Several local musicians joined the Kite Duo to mesmerise the most appreciative audience, including the Clive Zanda Ex-Tempo/Kaiso Trio, pianist Mikhail Salcedo, and the T&T Afro-Caribbean Drummers.

German Ambassador Dr Ernst Martens and his wife Christine welcomed their guests. Among them were Hans Horbach, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and his wife Sonja.

Also in the audience were local musicians Mungal Patasar, Michael Boothman, Felix Roach and Gillian Nathaniel Balintulo.



Dr ERNST MARTENS, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, left, pianist FELIX ROACH, CHRISTINE MARTENS, and CLIVE "ZANDA" ALEXANDER.



CANDICE ALCANTARA, PRO, T&T Entertainment Co Ltd and, ANTHONY BLENMAN, dealer in records and books.

## Train both mind and body

I can safely say that when it comes to exercise, I seldom conform to what is considered the norm by Trini standards; neither have I ever allowed people to change my mind about what I think is right in relation to training...

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## Hindus celebrate Shiva Ratri

T&T's over 300,000 devout Hindus will join their counterparts in India and in over 80 countries where the Indian diaspora resides to mark this auspicious and religious and meditative day of Shiva Ratri.

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# LIFE TODAY

MONDAY, MARCH 3 | 27

## diversity in • MUSIC

ABA LUKE

MUSIC is the universal language that binds cultures, ethnicities and continents together – as many have come to notice and agree upon. This week, there's no questioning this theory as on February 24, proof was obtained when, at the Central Bank Auditorium in Port-of-Spain, the cross-cultural experience unfolded for all to see.

The German Embassy here in Trinidad made a very ambitious and successful second attempt at drawing a diverse audience when they hosted the Sunday night concert which featured German Jazz musicians Dirk Strakhof and Franz Bauer, accompanied by this country's very own pioneer of Kaiso Jazz, Clive Alexander, who's better known among his peers as simply, Zanda.

The show kicked off at 7 pm and with an audience reflecting the rainbow of ethnicities found here in T&T, a stage bombarded by instruments of classical appeal, and Zanda himself, brought to the forefront to explain the ins and outs of how the cross-cultural experience came to be, a show quite different from the many others experienced on these shores got under way.



Kaiso Jazz pioneer CLIVE "ZANDA" ALEXANDER tickles the ivories.

PHOTOS ANTHONY HARRIS

### The Introduction:

AS ZANDA explained, officials at the German embassy initially reached out to him, requesting that he work with the Kite Duo, in presenting to T&T, music of a different style, yet intriguingly beautiful and quite capable of incorporating into the musical dynamics of the local genres. Accepting the offer to play a key role in ensuring that the night would essentially be a success, Zanda moved to incorporate other elements that he believed would add to the interest and overall appeal of the music that would come all the way from Germany, the place that T&T had left its mark upon via the Fifa World Cup campaign, merely two years ago.

Calling on the expertise of the North West Laventille Cultural Movement, pianist Mikhail Salcedo, guitarist Russell Durity and ace drummer Donald Jnr. Noel, Zanda managed to incorporate the non-traditional diversifications of jazz, German folkloristic themes, and even metaphoric expressions of Caribbean life, into a three hour long spectacle of artistic delight.

### The Show

The audience seemed an all-conservative one, but coupled with a desirable mixture of youths who'd come to the event as a result of a workshop hosted by the Kite Duo at the Bishop Anstey High School the day before, things evened out nicely and there was no doubt that beyond the opportunity to attend an enlightening affair, a great learning experience would be enjoyed. Zanda opened the concert, playing the piano alongside his accompanying drummer and base guitarist. The rhythms of local kaiso emanated from within each chord struck, each note echoed and before it could even be noticed, heads were bobbing, feet tapping and faces lit up, for without a doubt, kaiso had made its tran-



The national instrument, played by pianist MIKHAIL SALCEDO, is merged with the playing of German musicians FRANZ BAUER, left, and DIRK STRAKOF.

sition smoothly into the genre of jazz.

### The sweetest meat is a h yard fowl

Zanda's passion for what he plays, what he creates is noticeable. From the excitement seen in his eyes to the uncultivated movement propelled by each musical beat, it is immediately clear there is passion. On that Sunday night, creativity was a Trini yard fowl, a meat that as Zanda explained is the sweetest meat in the world. He said he'd been searching for a rhythmic cohesion that would orchestrate a sweet melody, a sweet topic even. The story, as he amusingly tells is that of simple backyard humour among friends for as he explained, the song's name was cooked up and dished out when his band mate's wife responded for his request for

something sweet as the inspiration for his imminent creation. "The yard fowl was the sweetest meat," she'd said and so it is, Yard Fowl became the name of a highly enjoyable, somewhat fluttery and light-hearted instrumental.

### The Kite Duo

Making T&T their first stop in a tour of the Caribbean, colleagues Dirk Strakhof and Franz Bauer showed off the immense talent held within. Two men possessing two hands each managed to create music that, had one been blind, would have certainly left the impression that a live band had been on stage. Strakhof's double bass meshed perfectly with the sounds emanating from Bauer's Vibrophone, a percussion instrument that has left quite an impression on anyone who heard it. With intent attention, all eyes and ears re-

mained peeled stage side as folks in the audience warmed up to the experience. The music, as explained in a press release, seeks to bring across folkloristic themes, in a new and unusual light to the audience, through a truly communicative experience – something that was certainly achieved.

### Kaiso meets Jazz – A Cross Caribbean Gallop

Following the usual intermission at the auditorium, things livened up. The local flavour came out in a way that was mysteriously enticing. With the sweet drums of Laventille, a pian playing expert, an iconic local pianist and a base guitarist that showed how he could be a one-man rhythm section, along with two world-class German musicians, the universal language that is music, brought those once thought – "conservative adults," to cheers of raunchy applause and laughter similar to a Panorama semi-final scene.

The highlight of the evening though, came when, on stage, sitting beside a group of men, some five times her age or more, an adorable little girl of not more than eight years old, showed off her drum-beating professionalism in a way that left many spectators in awe. She was given a solo beat to perfect and on stage, perfect the beat she did, much to the amazement of her onlookers.

The Cross Cultural experience was certainly a success as races, ethnicities, musical genres, rhythms and folklores intertwined, creating a fusion of cultural love and sophisticated embellishment that the entire world will one day come to hear and enjoy.

Moving on, the Kite duo delves deeper into the Caribbean, taking a bit of each island's heritage and rhythm to a higher musical awakening and when it's all said and done, many Trinians will be proud to say, "I heard it first... yard fowl style and all."

## WHAT'S ON

# Cross-cultural experience at Central Bank

FOLLOWING the successful cooperation of last year's German Jazz Band "Count Count" with renowned local artists like Sheldon Blackman, 12 The Band, Patti Rogers and many others, the German Embassy will host another cross-cultural experience in Port-of-Spain.

Trinidad will be the first stop of the well known German vibraphonist Franz Bauer and his double bass colleague Dirk Strakhof on their tour through the Caribbean and Central America.

The German "Kite Duo" will perform at the Central Bank Auditorium on Sunday at 7 pm,

also featuring Clive Zanda's Ex-Tempo/Kaiso Trio and a Finale Jam Session with TT Afro Caribbean pannist Mikhail Salcedo and drummer Donald Jnr. Noel.

In Kite's music different cultures come together and engage in a musical conversation.

Dirk Strakhof's warm singing double bass provides the foundation for the duo. His melodious and rhythmical playing often produces experimental sounds rarely heard from a bassist. Vibraphone and marimbaphone, played by Franz Bauer, lend the music a full and soft sound. His love for unusual sounds, clear themes and complex grooves lead to

perfect interaction with Strakhof's bass.

Through communicative performances folkloristic themes appear in an unusual light, shifting constantly between jazz and world music. Exceptional, sparing grooves and virtuos solos promise an interesting programme.

The German duo will be holding workshops in cooperation with various schools in Port-of-Spain. Interested artistes are invited to join in order to make their visit a true cross-cultural experience.

For further information or reservations, send an email to [pr-10@ports.diplo.de](mailto:pr-10@ports.diplo.de) or call 628-1630.



THE KITE DUO . . . coming to TT for a show and workshops

## German jazz pan fusion

By ANNE HILTON Wednesday, March 5 2008

THE CENTRAL Bank Auditorium was packed to the gills for "A Cross Cultural Experience" of Germany's Kite Duo (Franz Bauer on Vibraphone and Dirk Strakhof on Double Bass), fusion with pan, African drums and bass guitar, courtesy the German Embassy in Trinidad.

The evening began with Clive Zanda introducing the Kaiso Trio of Durity on Bass Guitar and Richie (we got no more than one name of each player) and Zanda on piano. "Favourite Things" from the soundtrack of The Sound of Music set the tone for the evening, followed by "Yard Fowl" the evergreen "Summertime" from Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess" and ending with the kaiso "Te Le Le".

Next came the German Kite Duo. Unfortunately we couldn't catch the titles of the pieces played — it might have been the accent, but it seems more likely it was the mike that caused that problem.

Nevertheless, the Kite Duo impressed with the combination of vibraphone and double bass — and various percussion instruments also played by Franz Bauer.

Joined by Mikhail Salved on pan, at first I had to concentrate fiercely to distinguish pan from vibraphone, but soon adjusted to the unusual, intriguing combination, both vibraphone and pan players using two sticks in each hand, while Strakhof impressed with his mastery of the double bass. A short intermission gave players and audience a chance to catch their breath and the stage crew to set out drums and chairs on stage for the North West Laventille Cultural Movement. Drums aren't my thing.

It says a great deal for these drummers that I was awed by their performance, the excitement of the rhythms and impressed by the discipline of both young and old drummers.

The high point of the evening had to be the fusion of Kite Duo, Kaiso Trio (plus pianist Aitkin Nolan from Siparia) and the North West Laventille Cultural Movement.

As there had been no time for rehearsal — the Kite Duo only arrived in Trinidad the day before the "experience" — there was the odd hiatus. However, Clive Zanda coordinated the piece by pointing to one then another group or player.

All in all, the audience really appreciated this cross cultural experience, yet there was no standing ovation, perhaps because we expected bows and final announcements when the music came to an end.

We thank the German Embassy for a unique event in the musical annals of TT and look forward to the next visit of musicians from Germany.

click on pic to zoom in



Members of Kite Duo surrounded by local musicians during a workshop at Bishop Anstey High School....

