

Supporting *The Arts,* Preserving Our Culture

Trinidad and Tobago is known around the world for its cultural diversity and the creative genius of its people. The annual carnival celebrations are an explosion of music, dance and artistic design that reflects the excitement and dynamism of our heritage. This rich cultural tapestry is not confined to the carnival season but extends throughout the year playing a significant role in national development. The National Gas Company recognizes the tremendous value of artistic expression as a catalyst for nation-building and continues to sponsor and support major events and activities.

One of these is the annual NGC BOCAS Lit Fest which has emerged as an important regional and international literary festival. A primary objective of this event is "to celebrate the Caribbean's literary achievements" by providing a forum for readings, performances, workshops, and discussions. In 2012 there were 50 literary participants from home and abroad along with 21 visiting authors from the USA, Canada, India and the United Kingdom. Over 3,000 persons attended an impressive schedule of activities during the festival.

Another important NGC-sponsored event on the annual calendar is the National Junior Arts



Sanfest – Choir performances

Festival, popularly called Sanfest. This is staged by the San Fernando Arts Council to "encourage the nurturing and establishment of the performing, literary and visual arts in schools". Many persons who have participated at Sanfest in their early years have since risen to national and international prominence including renowned pianist Liam Teague and the phenomenal Machel Montano.

Earlier this year, NGC sponsored the first ever SteelFesTT in conjunction with the SteelFesTT Committee and Pan Trinbago. This formed part of its contribution towards the nation's 50th Anniversary of Independence commemoration activities. This event will become an annual celebration of our national instrument and will serve to highlight the steelband's versatility and its contribution to the world of music. This unique affair features an exciting combination of street parades, concerts, workshops and conferences. In addition NGC has continued to provide financial assistance to steelbands throughout Trinidad and Tobago especially in our 'fenceline' communities.

In keeping with its philosophy of youth development NGC also supports the St. Augustine Chamber Orchestra and the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Philharmonic. Their primary objective is to promote an appreciation of orchestral music throughout Trinidad and Tobago. These orchestras have trained over 100 young musicians in a range of instruments including violins, cellos, woodwinds and brass.

NGC is also extremely proud of its relationship with the internationally-acclaimed Lydian Singers, one of the foremost choirs in the Caribbean. Under the leadership of the late Dr. Pat Bishop this group rose to prominence with many outstanding performances both here and abroad. They continue to capture the hearts and minds of audiences of all ages.

The development of the Arts in Trinidad and Tobago is central to NGC's programme of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and we will continue to support the vibrant creative spirit that thrives in our communities and our people.



SteelFesTT – Steelband performance



BOCAS Lit Fest performance



*Midnight Robber –
BOCAS Lit Fest performance*