

**REMARKS BY MRS WYNDA F CHANDLER  
AT LAUNCH OF NGC LA BREA NIGHTINGALES MUSIC  
LITERACY PROGRAMME  
MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2013**

Today is a very special day for the members of NGC la Brea Nightingales because you are embarking on a course often left alone by many of your brothers and sisters in the steelband fraternity. We're talking, of course, about the start of a music literacy programme.

But what really is this music literacy all about? Music is a global language and as Trinians we know that we spread joy through music, we bring people together through music

So with music literacy, quite simply, you will learn the language of music so that in time you can read sheet music, compose – if you want to go that way – and during practice you will be able to avoid some of the repetition or running sections you often endure when learning a new tune. Of course, that is just a very simple explanation of music literacy. More importantly, I believe that for any steelband musician, music literacy is the difference between beating pan and playing a musical instrument. But the most exciting thing about becoming music literate is that there is no limit to the type of music you can play. Once you can read it you can play it and that opens up so many new possibilities for you!

Last year, for the first time in its almost 40 years of existence, NGC decided to have its brand associated with steel bands and you, La Brea Nightingales, were one of two bands we choose. (Of course the other is Couva Joylanders).

Have you considered the significance of our choice? After all, you are one of the oldest steel bands in south Trinidad with a great and respected history. You perform extremely well and many would say you already deserve a place among Panorama champions. Actually, many DO say it, and very vociferously, too!

So today, let's just agree that, with NGC's help, it is time for Nightingales to write a new chapter in their history. And you're beginning with this music literacy programme.

Let's embrace it, make the best of it and think of the possibilities that can result because of it.

I'd like you to remember just one thing as I close: **if you can read it, you can play it!**

Thank you.