

Tuesday October 27, 2015

Dear Thierry,

This is to thank you and the sponsor(s) of the 'Conductors Without Borders' initiative of the IFCM for the successful hosting of CWB/Ghana – 2015. We are also indeed grateful to Prof Karen Cooksey for her excellent handling of the program.

Feedback from participating organizations indicate that the program was very responsive to the expectations of participants.

Although there are many institutions in Ghana offering music education, and a large number of Church Choirs, Work Place Choirs, Institutional Choirs, and Community Choirs, most Choir Masters are self-educated conductors. There is therefore justification for the introduction of CWB in Ghana through periodic workshops and mentorships.

Participating Institutions:

Three institutions were originally listed to participate in the program being: the Valley View University – Accra (Music Department), University of Education – Winneba (Music Department), the University of Cape Coast which later opted out and were replaced with the Winneba Youth Choir of Ghana. Music Haven, a new music school established in 2015 in Accra was also added to the list to make a total of four participating institutions.

VALLEY VIEW UNIVERSITY (VVU):

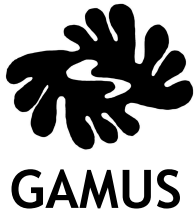
This is a University established about 25 years ago by the 7th Day Adventist Church. The Music Department is a recent addition to the Faculties of Study and therefore was very eager to benefit from the CWB program.

The program at VVU was run on Tuesday and Wednesday October 13 – 14, 2015. The two day program was well attended with about 80 participants made up of Music Students and Faculty of the University as well as Choirmasters from the Adventist Churches in Accra and its environs.

MUSIC HAVEN

On Thursday October 15, 2015, Karen run a morning session on Conducting with a 10 member faculty of Music Haven. Music Haven is a newly established private institution to provide lessons in music theory and practice. It prepares students for qualifying examinations in ABRSM, CIE, IGCSE, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Music, as well as Professional Training for Church Organists, Choirmasters, Music Teachers, Directors and Composers.

There were 10 members of faculty present together with the Principal, Mr. Raphael Sackey, and the Owner, Mr. Papa Takyi-Micah. The presentation was followed by a 'questions and answers'



session with further demonstrations. The school proposes to establish a relationship with the 'Conductors Without Borders' program.

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION – WINNEBA (UEW)

The Session with the UEW was held in the afternoon of Friday, October 16, 2015 with first year students in Conducting students, and with the Lecturer in Conducting, Hope Konu, and the Head of Music Department, Mrs Eva Anku, in attendance. The session was preceded by a one hour radio interview of Karen by the University's Radio Station, Radio Windy Bay, with phone-ins by listeners. The radio interview enabled the wider community of musician, Choirmaster, and Choir Enthusiasts to call into the interview with their questions and contributions.

Although the original 2-day program with UEW had been varied to a day, because the entire Music and Performing Arts Faculty had been drafted at short notice to put up a production at the National Theatre of Ghana, the day's events were very fruitful and satisfied participants expectations.

WINNEBA YOUTH CHOIR

The Winneba Youth Choir is the leading choral group in Ghana, established in May 1989, with a lot of international exposure, including performing at the WSCM8 in Copenhagen. The original 2 – day session with the Choir was increased to 3 days because of the shortening of the UEW session by 1 day. It covered Thursday, October 14, and Saturday and Sunday, October 17 & 18, 2015.

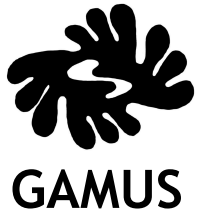
Karen took the Choir through Breathing Techniques, Phrasing generally with its nuances for different languages – this was to aid the Choir in its planned tour of France in March 2016. She also gave lessons in Music Theory, and took the choir through the reading Staff Notation as against the Tonic Solfa notation which the Choir employs. She held smaller sessions with the Choirmaster as well as the management team of the Choir, on Choir Management.

The Choir has expressed its profound appreciation to Karen for enriching its knowledge in music.

The Ghana Art Music Society is thankful to the CWB program, to Karen, and to you Thierry, for making it possible for musicians of Ghana to benefit from this laudable program. The Society regrets any lapses and inconveniences experienced during the implementation of the program, and will take them as lessons for the improvement of future events.

Sincerely,

Edusei Derkyi
Deputy Chairman
GAMUS

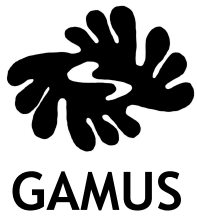


GHANA ART MUSIC SOCIETY

33 Rev. Dagadu Close, C10, Tema. Box CT5820, Cantonments, Accra - Ghana.
Tel: +233 242222156



Emeritus Prof. J. H. K Nketia (Chairman), Godfred Edusei Derkyi (Vice Chairman).



GHANA ART MUSIC SOCIETY

33 Rev. Dagadu Close, C10, Tema. Box CT5820, Cantonments, Accra - Ghana.
Tel: +233 242222156



Emeritus Prof. J. H. K Nketia (Chairman), Godfred Edusei Derkyi (Vice Chairman).