

SAF fundraiser a success

SWEET Jazz and Caribbean beats filled the air recently, as the Barbados Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF) held its charity's fundraising concert at Frank Collymore Hall.

The event which was entitled the "Calypso and Jazz Charity Fundraising Concert" was in celebration of the charity's 20th anniversary and saw the best of local talent gracing the stage to give patrons a night they would soon never forget.

Barbados' very own musical theatre ensemble known as Operation Triple Threat opened the evening's proceedings with spirited renditions of Broadway hits. The group performed "You will be found" from the "Dear Evan Hansen" musical, and "Relativity" from the "Theory of Relativity" production. Both arrangements carried over well to the audience, who reacted in awe to the sweet harmonies emanating from the young group.

Soca stalwart Biggie Irie also made a special appearance for the event, and took us back to Soca hits from years gone by such as "Country", "Pankatang" and crowd favourite, "Get Busy".

Local songbird Kellie Cadogan was also impressive during the evening, with her stripped back, mostly acoustic presentation. The band was truly in fine form for the experienced soloist, as they easily kept up with her vocal acrobatics, however, it was the strength of her vocals, particularly her passionate, yet soft approach to her self-penned piece "I Wanna Sing A Song" which really wooed the audience.

Her rendition of "How Many More" was also notable, as she used the moment to address the seemingly never end form of gun violence currently im-



The Mighty Gabby being accompanied by Andre Daniel on piano.



Biggie Irie.



Members of Operation Triple Threat were in fine form.



Kellie Cadogan.

pacting the country. It was her form of intercession for the nation, a moment all of those who attended needed to experience.

The closing act of the night was from Barbados' Cultural Ambassador and award winning calypsonian Dr. Anthony Gabby Carter. The maestro did not have a big band backing him, or prerecorded backing tracks, instead, Andre Daniel accompanied him on the grand piano.

Gabby who as always used his time to engage with his audience, took a different approach to his known hits, like "Fishermen", "Bridgetown Market" and "Emmertown". He voiced his interest in emphasising the lyrics to these popular pieces, as it was his opinion that we often get lost in catchy melodies. His approach certainly did wonders; in allowing Daniel to play an abstract version of the tried and true melodies of these

pieces, Gabby was able to deliver what many can say, was his most on point and vivid performance of some of Barbados' famous folk songs.

They were emotional, evocative, yet faithful to the original works.

What we can say, is that the patrons during the event, thoroughly enjoyed the vocal and artistic experience from the artists.

Disney: Musical Hamilton heading to cinemas later next year

DISNEY has announced that historical hip hop musical "Hamilton" will be streamed in cinemas in North America later next year.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, the star and brains behind the hit musical, said the screening will be a live performance of a show filmed at New York's Richard Rodgers Theatre.

It will feature the original cast and be shown in cinemas on October 15, 2021.

The musical tells the story of US founding father, Alexander Hamilton.

The original Broadway cast included Miranda as Alexander Hamilton, Christopher Jackson as George Washington, Daveed Diggs as Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson, Renee Elise Goldsberry as Angelica Schuyler and Phillipa Soo as Eliza Hamilton.

The original stars have been busy with other projects since their final performances. Leslie Odom Jr, who played Aaron Burr in the production, has since released a self-titled album

and Soo went on to star in the title role of the musical adaptation of Amélie.

Jonathan Groff, a two-time Tony nominee, currently plays the FBI detective in Netflix's series "Mindhunter".

Miranda earned an Oscar nomination for best original song for Disney's "Moana" in 2017.

His first Tony-winning musical, "In the Heights", has been adapted for the big screen and will debut sometime this year.

The playwright teased the Hamilton project to Variety last week at the Sundance Film Festival,

He said, "What I'm most excited about [is] you all have that friend that is like, 'I saw it with the original cast.' We're stealing that brag from everyone because you're all going to see it with the original cast."

The show which won 11 Tony awards, opened on Broadway in 2015 and made its UK debut in London's West End in December, 2017.



The show recently finished a three-year tour in Chicago.