

RAPSO ARTISTE COACHES EMA ECO-SONG CONTESTANTS

November 12, 2010 - Popular rapso artiste, Wendell Manwarren, is urging contestants in the Third Annual Secondary Schools' Eco-Song Competition hosted by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) to maintain the "strong cultural traditions" of the country.

Manwarren, a founding member of the 3canal rapso group, issued the challenge during a mentoring workshop on November 12 for all finalists in this year's competition which comes to a climax at Queen's Hall, St Ann's on Wednesday November 17, 2010.

He urged the 12 finalists representing 10 secondary schools, to "perform with conviction" since they were the ones to ensure that indigenous musical art forms stayed alive and strong.

The annual EMA competition encourages students from Forms 1-6 to compose and perform musical renditions of important environmental messages in any indigenous genre including calypso, soca, chutney, chutney soca and rapso.

EMA Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Dr Joth Singh, says he views the competition as evidence of the Authority's commitment to youth development and "the important link that exists between sound environmental practice today and positive prospects for the world of tomorrow."

This year, the theme of the competition is: "Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is our life."

Manwarren coached the finalists in the areas of on-stage performance, style, voice and articulation and cited his own career experiences as a professional musician.

Additional advice came from Chief Judge, Nikisha Sookwah, who is an Environmental Programme Officer at the EMA and Patricia Elder, another judge from the Ministry of Education.

In opening the workshop, EMA Manager of Corporate Relations and Public Education, Tisha Marajh, said the finalists represented some of the "best young artistes in the country". She also pointed to the fact that when the competition was first launched in 2008 it was open only to students in Forms 1-3, but had now been expanded to include a new category of students from Forms 4-6.

She said the EMA had engaged young people in the promotion of sound environmental management practices through several initiatives including the Eco-Song Competition, the Primary Schools' 'Hands-On' Contest and the Youth Ambassadors Programme which had developed an enthusiastic cadre of youth advocates for the environment.

Prizes (in both categories)

First prize: \$3,000 for the student, \$2,000 for the school

Second place: \$2,500 for the student, \$1,500 for the school

Third place: \$2,000 for the student, \$1,000 for the school

The competition will be hosted by the EMA in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Minister with responsibility for the Environment, Dr. the Honourable Roodal Moonilal will deliver the feature address, and Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh will be delivering remarks.

Finalists

Name of Student(s)	Name of School	Genre/Topic	Category
Sheraz Nabbie	St. Anthony's College	Calypso – “Colours of life”	Forms 1-3
Alyssa Ragbir	SWAHA Hindu College	Calypso – “Roles of Biodiversity”	1-3
Jamal Barnett	Belmont Boys Secondary School	Rapso – “Missing You”	1-3
Vikki Lee	Naparima Girls' High School	Calypso – “Trinbago Please Take Heed”	1-3
Jerrisha Regis	Corpus Christi College	Calypso	1-3

Name of Student(s)	Name of School	Genre/Topic	Category
Celeste Barton	Bishop Anstey High School East	Soca - “Strive to Survive”	Forms 4-6
Tenoka Williams	Naparima Girls' High School	Calypso – “Rehabilitate Trinbago”	4-6
Anthony Batson	Couva West Secondary School	Chutney Soca – “Love your country”	4-6
Gia Julien	Iere High School	Rapso – “Biodiversity”	4-6

Abigail Harry	Carapichaima West Secondary School	Rapso – “Destruction inna de forest”	4-6
Janeen Simon	Holy Faith Convent-Couva	Calypso – “Bush Medicine”	4-6
Ashley Borris	Bishop Anstey High School East / Trinity College East	Calypso – “Clean up your act”	4-6

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Venue: Queen’s Hall, St Ann’s

Time: 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Broadcast media covering the event are advised to have all cameras and other equipment in place by 8.00 a.m. Please contact Marvin Alexander at the EMA at: 628-8042/8044-5, Extension 2277.

CAPTIONS:

MANWARREN 1 & 2: Wendell Manwarren founding member of the 3Canal Rapso Group tutors the students at the EMA workshop.

