



Former Calypso Queens, from left, Stacey Sobers, Terri Lyons, Tameika Darius and Joanne Foster, singing Ambatalla Woman
PHOTOS BY INNIS FRANCIS

Music and testimony at *Reflections*

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Mother and son duo, Tameika and Xhaiden Darius shared music and a powerful testimony at their recent concert, Reflections, at Naparima College, San Fernando.

Reflecting on her beginnings, Tameika shared how she started performing at five with the Jeune Agape Choir and competing in junior calypso competitions. In Xhaiden's three years of performing, he has already won the South Junior and Point Fortin Calypso Monarch titles and has been in the finals of the National Junior Calypso Monarch and Junior Emancipation Calypso competitions.

Tameika also shared a deeply personal story about the challenges she

faced during her pregnancy. Due to his position in the womb, doctors told her Xhaiden might never walk.

"He was in a seated position for months and never turned," she said.

Shortly after his birth, Xhaiden underwent several hip ultrasounds and it was a struggle to get daycare for him due to delays in his development.

"All of that added up was just tearing me apart, mashing me up! And today, to see him singing, dancing, and playing music is something I needed to celebrate," Tameika said.

She said the concert was a celebration of all that she and her son have overcome.

"I didn't want to over-plan this because, as they say, 'When you plan, God laughs.' But I do hope to make Reflections an annual event," she said.

The mother and son shared the stage with artistes who have been instrumental to their journey, including Kyle Peters, musical director for the concert and Xhaiden's cuatro and music tutor.

Speaking about his work with Xhaiden, Kyle said: "Working with Xhaiden was really easy. He came ready-made. I didn't have much work to do with him, and it never felt like work."

Other performers included former Calypso Queens Terri Lyons, Stacey Sobers, and Joanne Foster, as well as Alyssa Joseph, Katelin Sultan, and The St Hilaire Brothers. Tokens of appreciation were given to those who had played essential roles in their journey, including Brian London, Joey Rivers, and Rodney Alexander.



Xhaiden Darius takes centre stage



Xhaiden Darius and Katelin Sultan sing I Love My Country.

Tameika Darius gives praise in song.