



## December 2014 Newsletter

Phone:(347)838-5005,  
Email: maasaakhi@gmail.com  
Web:[www.brooklynmusicandarts.com](http://www.brooklynmusicandarts.com)

# WELCOME!!!

Maa Sa Akhi is delighted to extend a warm “Welcome Back” to our recently returning students.

We missed you!

- Milaura Chery
- Nioka Gaudin and Joshua Racine
- Mikayla, Mahari and Kennedy Richards
- Marquise Sutton

Maa Sa Akhi would also like to extend a hearty “Welcome” to our newest students:

- Annalyne Cooper
- Olivia Duvormond
- Simone Brewer
- Sarah Abernathy
- Jenny Cadet
- Luidgy Senatus
- Elijah Simon
- Noah Chery
- Ade Dickerson

## Maa Sa Akhi Welcomes Brighter Hope Daycare!

Maa Sa Akhi is thrilled to welcome Brighter Hope Daycare to the Maa Sa Akhi family!

- Joshua Burge
- Sebastian Edwards
- Mataya Coombs
- Amelia Jones
- Annisteen Dorteur
- Jaida Livingston

We would also like thank phenomenal parent, Claudia Jaundoo, for introducing the families of Brighter Hope to Maa Sa Akhi. We are so grateful for your contributions!

### Dates To Remember:

**December 23 – January 3**  
Winter Recess  
No Classes  
**Classes Resume January 6**

**December 26**  
Caton Park – Nursing Home  
Recital  
**Dress Rehearsals**  
**(at Maa Sa Akhi)**

General Dress Rehearsal

Time: 1pm

Band & Singing Dress Rehearsal

Time: 2:30pm

**December 28**  
Caton Park-  
Nursing Home  
**Recital**  
**Time: 3:30pm**

**Come Prepared to Spread Your Holiday Cheer!**

## Welcome back, Mr. Motheo!

We are excited to announce that our beloved teacher, Mr. Motheo, has returned to Maa Sa Akhi. Mr. Motheo is currently teaching private piano . He has also returned as the Wee Rock Band teacher. We’re so glad to have you back!!

## FEEL EVEN BETTER, JEREMIAH!

As most of us are probably aware, our student, Jeremiah Torres, underwent heart surgery a few weeks ago. We are elated to announce that Jeremiah is healing very well.

Jeremiah and his parents would like to thank everyone for the well wishes they sent before his surgery. They were a huge help!

Maa Sa Akhi is striving to raise enough money to present Jeremiah with a gift when he returns. If you haven't already, please donate \$1 to the donation box on the reception desk. We know he'll appreciate it!

Thank You.

## EVENTS



### Mr. Ankh Ra Master Vocal Class

**Reknowned and exceptional vocal coach, Ankh Ra Amenhetep is teaching a monthly master vocal class at Maa Sa Akhi! Come learn from this extraordinary vocal master. Everyone is welcome, so spread the word to all who may be interested!**



### Flatbush Caton Market Tree Lighting and Customer Appreciation

On Saturday December 20, 2014, the Flatbush-Caton Market is hosting a holiday event! Starting at 10am, there will be a reasonably priced Al Fresco Caribbean breakfast. Within the market, there are a number of merchant shops to purchase specialty gifts for your loved ones. There will also be a special performance by Amor Lil Man! Celebrate the holidays at the Caton-Flatbush Market. It's sure to be a great time!

### Caton Nursing Home Winter Recital

Maa Sa Akhi's Annual Winter Recital at the Caton Park Nursing Home, located at 1312 Caton Avenue, is coming up! On Sunday December 28, 3:30pm, Maa Sa Akhi students will spread their holiday cheer to all of the nursing home residents and guests. Come and spread the cheer with us!

### Brooklyn Public Library Free Family Events

Brooklyn Public Library is offering a series of free family events on Saturdays, at 1pm, in Central Library's Dweck Center . Upcoming events include:

- Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> – Frosty: The beloved snowman from the classic tale comes to life.
- Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – Jazz 4 Kids
- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – Shine and the Moonbeams
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – Feraba African Rhythm Tap Duet
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – Chinese New Year Celebration
- Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Journey into Africa

## Our Own Fredric Renaud - Again In Concert

Frederic Renaud, who started his music career at Maa Sa Akhi at the age of 4 in a group piano class with Mut Hefen, has masterfully performed yet again for two outstanding events with cello as his instrument. With Professor Fred Alston as his instructor, Frederic continues to keep his piano mastery current along with studying Composition and composing and playing in our String Ensemble. Now, with Frederic's 2013 induction into Julliard, cello is propelling 15 year old Frederic to international travel and excellent performances around the city. Below is an account of Fredric's most recent performance as critiqued by his teacher, Professor Fred Alston.

“Fredric’s playing was consistently lovely and reliable. The intonation was quite good! His beautiful dark tone was always focused, even in difficult double-stopped passages. He showed an intelligent, musical sensibility in both works by Bach and Lalo. His nuances and shadings of color and tempo in the Bach – shadings of vibrato, rubato and dynamics demonstrated his understanding of the structures of the music and the intent of the composer. The fast moving scale passages toward the end of the Lalo were clear, clean, rhythmically fluent and very effective. Fredric, or should I say Mr. Fredric, is indeed a musician’s musician! It was a joy to hear him play.”

-Mr. Fred Alston

## Tamar Jaundoo A Stellar Performance

On November 22, 2014, our exceptional, young student, Tamar Jaundoo, performed the hymnal “Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow” at her church. The audience had nothing but great things to say of Tamar’s performance. Everyone absolutely loved it! One person even commented on how perfect Tamar’s fingering was. Everyone at the church told Tamar to keep up the good work. And so do we!

-Ms. Claudia Jaundoo

## WINTER HOLY DAY TRADITIONS

As the holiday season commences, we would like to illuminate some of the holidays that are usually celebrated this time of year.

### **Hanukah:** December 16<sup>th</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>

Hanukah is a Jewish holy day celebrated over eight days in commemoration of the ancient Jewish revolt, in the second century B.C., against their Greek-Syrian rulers. Each of the eight days is marked by lighting a candle on the menorah and displaying it in a window in order to remind others of the origins of this holy time. It is also marked by traditional foods, games and gifts.

### **The Winter Solstice:** December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>

The winter solstice marks the shortest daylight time of the year. In Egypt, about 4000 years ago, the equivalent of billions of dollars was spent to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu, with windows to mark the exact time to go deep into meditation, for rededication to godly living. This enabled the whole society to prosper with wealth, health and great inventions, which we all benefit from today. There were great celebrations marking their success to start the new year. Many are rediscovering the Winter Solstice as a time for fasting, meditation, and focusing inward to rediscover a Divine self image.

### **Christmas:** December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas, celebrated for over two millennia, for the new Christ child, is marked as a time for spreading peace and joy. It is a time for caroling, decorating trees and gift giving to loved ones. It marks the birth of the light to mankind.

### **Kwanza:** December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>

Kwanza is an African-American and Pan African holiday created in 1966, in an effort to unite the African-American community, by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Kwanza is celebrated over seven nights, each day emphasizing one of seven principles: Unity:Umoja, Self-determination: Kujichagulia, Cooperative Economics: Ujamaa, Purpose: Nia, Creativity: Kuumba, Faith: Imani.

### **Chinese New Year:** February 19<sup>th</sup>

The Chinese New Year is a festival in honor of the lunar-solar Chinese calendar. The holiday is a time to honor household and heavenly energies that will bless the family and community. Originally, it was usually marked with a household cleansing, sacrifices of foods and paper items for blessings, and a grand family feast.

# Have A Wonderful Holy Day Season!!!

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