

Lyrical message for addicts

Jazz artiste Kellie Cadogan touched the hearts of hundreds with a lyrical, empathetic message for people suffering from drug addiction when she performed at the **Frank Collymore Hall** at the 20th anniversary concert staged by the Substance Abuse Foundation Inc. last week.

On a night when the music outshone the brilliant stage lights, with a programme showcasing some of the finest musical talent in Barbados, Cadogan showed why she is rated as a mirror image of great jazz artistes such as Ella Fitzgerald.

Employing her improvisational skills, she began her performance with selections from her albums, wooing the audience with the love song **I Want To Sing A Song**.

To bring attention to the circumstances that attracted the overwhelming response of patrons to the fund-raising event, Cadogan included John King's iconic **How Many More Jah?** in the repertoire. Before delivering a haunting rendition of the song, she told the audience: "I hope that this song brings hope to you if you have a loved one who is in a position of drug addiction . . . because I firmly believe that prayer is the answer to everything."

She put her soul into this standard, in which King gives expression to the pain of a mother who loses her son to violence. Cadogan aptly related it to the suffering of parents and victims of substance abuse and her delivery resonated with the audience, who responded with sustained applause.

Words of encouragement

At the end of the song she moved smoothly into reciting words of encouragement to parents: "We are going to teach them that they have a choice in saying no . . . We are going to teach them that they don't have to be a statistic."

The impressive line-up of artistes included Janelle Headley and **Operation Triple Threat**, who opened the concert, and **Biggie Irie**, the big man with the big voice. He belted out favourites **Get Busy** and **Country** and the audience really got into the act when he sang his soca hit **Pankatang**.

Pernell Farley and his band **Nemesis** did an outstanding job backing the artistes. When he introduced the large band, MC Mac Fingall gave the virtually all-male line-up the opportunity to introduce themselves individually, but he inadvertently left out the only female band member, 27-year-old drummer Juanita Clarke.

But Clarke registered her presence, competently beating out the rhythms of every musical genre she was asked by Fingall to prove her competence and the crowd reacted with resounding applause.

Cultural Ambassador **Gabby**, known to be a powerhouse on stage, was in a more sombre mode, delivering his most iconic songs in a style that at times invited audience participation. Songs such



Jazz artiste Kellie Cadogan singing her way into the hearts of the hundreds of patrons who attended the Substance Abuse Foundation's fund-raising concert.

The Mighty Gabby singing his iconic "Emmertan".

Below: Biggie Irie on stage at the Frank Collymore Hall. (Pictures by Gercine Carter.)



A large audience supported the Substance Abuse Foundation's fund-raising concert.



as **Jack** and **The Fisherman** resonated with the audience, but none more effectively than the singer's evergreen ballad **Emmertan**. (GC)