The University of the West Indies

Faculty of Humanities and Education

**Department of Creative and Festival Arts**

**Biddeau Drum Festival**

Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), The University of the West Indies (UWI), Eastern Emancipation Committee and Afro-Caribbean Drummers Association will be hosting the second Biddeau Drum Festival, to promote and build upon the contribution to the cultural heritage of Trinidad and Tobago, made by the Biddeau family, in particular, Andrew and Jeffrey Biddeau.

The Biddeau Drum Festival will comprise three distinct events: The Saraka Drumming Workshops will be hosted on Sunday 8th, Sunday 15th, Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th July 2012. The second event is the Saraka Feast which is the annual ancestral celebrations of the Biddeau clan, and will be hosted from Tuesday July 31st to August 1st 2102. The Drum Symposium will comprise the final event with the Theme: ‘Honouring our Ancestors’. Papers will be presented on the instrument and its significance in Africa and the African diaspora. This Symposium will be hosted by DCFA, UWI on Saturday August 4th, 2012, at The Open Campus Auditorium, at Gordon Street, St. Augustine, with Feature Speaker: Her Excellency Fidelia Graand-Galon, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Suriname to Trinidad and Tobago.

While the Festival itself started only in 2011, its central event, the Saraka ancestral feast, including Big Drum dances of Carriacou, has been a celebration of the Biddeau clan for generations. Placed within the period of Emancipation celebrations, the Biddeau Drum Festival is intended to highlight and help preserve African drum traditions in Trinidad and Tobago and educate the public about the significance of these traditions worldwide.

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