



Menagerie will deliver a musical mix at La Parranda on October 11.

Musical delight awaits in the east

CAROLYN K CORREIA

AFTER TRAVELLING or living away from home for some time, sometimes the contrast is startling. But not for the reasons you think

Often the complaint is that there is not much to do in TT. But Ramona Totesau-Peter plans to change that with her new company Easy Listening Promotions. As the name suggests, the business is about providing a musical experience for patrons. The aim is to promote live band entertainment to showcase the talent and culture TT has to offer. Starting in the East-West corridor, Totesau-Peter's first Mother's Day concert proved to be a marvellous experience that you must experience firsthand.

As I interviewed her at a local coffee shop inhaling the heavenly aromas, she told me to close my eyes while she painted the vision for her concerts in my mind with words and imagery.

Picture this: You are sitting in a comfortable chair surrounded by beautifully decorated palms and a décor so divine that you feel that you are transported to a midsummer's night dream fantasy.

A server brings you a festive cocktail of your choice with one of those little umbrellas and a cherry. While you wait you are offered a choice of tantalising delights to stimulate your palate such as bacon-wrapped plantain and roasted vegetable quichettes. These



Ramona Totesau-Peter of Easy Listening Promotions is working to promote live band entertainment to showcase TT's talent and culture.

tasty treats, she says, are all concocted by Sieben Designs and Shavers Gourmetice. Your sense of smell is heightened with the aroma of soothing, scented candles and your ears are filled with the harmonious sounds of a band warming up... This is only the beginning, she says, and her voice trails off into another conversation.

I was caught totally by surprise and upon opening my eyes a few moments later I really thought I was somewhere other than my present location! Totesau-Peter plans to have a band play a tribute to patrons while handing out tokens to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. She plans this, as well as many more spectacular treats that patrons can look forward to.

A varied career

Totesau-Peter worked for many years in banking, nursing, sales and retail before asking God to lead her to her purpose. The married mother of two adult sons is filled with pride as she speaks about

their accomplishments.

They are her pride and joy and she enjoys having them as part of her family business. Her youngest son Mark who is a self-taught keyboardist also plays for many church functions, her husband John plays drums and elder son Rene, is an IT professional.

What is remarkable is that her husband and youngest son also have their own band which also comprises Sam Peter and Kent Diaz. Easy Listening Promotions features music from different genres including Latin, jazz, vintage kaiso, adult contemporary and selections from the French Caribbean.

The company launched its first event last May 10 at the La Joya Auditorium and featured the band Nuestra Cosa.

The sounds of Menagerie were chosen for their second event on July 5 at the Bureau of Standards, Macoya Industrial Estate. Preparations are now underway for their third event, La Parranda (party), which will take place at the Bureau of Standards Auditorium on October 11, which promises to be an over-the-top experience for patrons. It will feature the band Sonrie and include a repertoire of merengue, salsa, plena bolero, bossa nova as well as parang.

The new entrepreneur is all about learning and transforming those experiences into tangible results. She is currently taking part in Cariri's Hatchery and Incubation training

programme which is designed to equip her with the tools necessary for business success.

She recalls one day many years ago while working at the bank: She had some extra money at Christmas-time and decided to buy lots of gifts for family and friends. That year she did

not get any gifts back but it did not matter because her heart was full from just seeing other people happy. Now, as a business owner, Totesau-Peter says this is also her goal, "Even if my business is not a success (right away) it is about the experience. It is how you treat with people and situations that matters most."

What's next for Totesau-Peter?

"At age 55, I believe in the blessing and abundance while I live in the security of love. Now, I have big dreams of building businesses. I've read books such as Robert Kiyosaki's *Rich Dad Poor Dad* and looked at documentaries such as *Undercover Boss* and in my old self I wished I could have been one of those people receiving abundant blessings.

Now in Jesus' light, I dream of being the person giving abundantly." For more info on Easy Listening Promotions email: easylisteningpromo@gmail.com or Facebook - Easy Listening Promotions. carolyn.correia@gmail.com

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