

J'can Folk Singers kick off three, culture-filled New York concerts

Jamaica is proudly sharing one of its most precious national treasures – the world-renowned Jamaican Folk Singers – in October with three anticipated New York- area concerts.

Known for its authentic embodiment of the island-nation's rich and diverse culture through song and garb, the decades-old singing ensemble is being presented by the Jamstar Enterprises in the "World Series of Concerts," taking place in Queens, Manhattan and Hempstead, L.I. The opening gala performance at St. John's University in Queens on Oct. 11 kicks off the singers' concert series. Herman Lamont, Jamaica's Consul General in New York, is expected to attend the event, which includes a VIP reception. The concert begins at 8 p.m. One exciting result of the tour will be a St. John's University workshop on Jamaican folk culture, held Oct. 11 before the concert, under the auspices of university music director Nigel Gretton. For information, call the university at (718) 990-2000. The concert series continues on Oct. 12 with the "Hello Broadway!" performance at the Assembly Hall Auditorium of Hunter College, 695 Park Ave. (at E. 68th St.), starting at 8 p.m. The Grand Finale show on Oct. 13 at the Calvary Church auditorium, 78 N. Franklin St., Hempstead, beginning at 5 p.m., concludes the series. Proceeds from the performances will aid two projects in the Caribbean nation – Jamstar's Friends of the Arts program in Jamaica and the restoration of the Ward Theatre in Kingston. Proceeds from the tour will aid two Jamaica projects – Jamstar's Friends of the Arts program and the Ward Theatre Restoration Fund in Kingston. Call Jamstar at (516) 564-5103 and use Promo Code FMAT109. Discount tickets are available for groups. Visit www.worldseriesconcertsusa.com. For group tickets, call (732) 278-0154 or (443) 366-5967.