

It was then time for the audience participation with group carolling led by **Conchita Jasmy, Darryl Collins, Marian Collins** and **Angel D'Silva**. Supported by musicians **Barry Collins, Mario D'Cruz, Damien Collins, Sonny Rodrigues** and **Ralph Rodrigues**.



Collins Connect welcomed our first time attendees, the 'Royapuram Carolers' from the west led by **Russel Rodrigues, Errol Edmonds** and their group who entertained the audience with their a cappella rendition of Christmas Carols. Singing traditional carols with second harmony and counter-melody brought back many memories of the carol singing that took place in Madras travelling house to house serenading the families. Collins Connect appreciated their welcome feedback and suggestions and hope that they will continue to support the 2023 Carols event. Big ideas and big vision!!



Next on the stage was the highly anticipated **Jingle Bells Carolers**. Led by the talented **Sharlene Heldt**, the nativity play was acted out on stage. The narrator and artists had the audience engaged with humor, ethnic accents and captivating recap of the reason for Christmas—the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. **Darryl Collins** acting as one of the 3 Kings took his part seriously, with a bellowing voice caught the attention of the audience.



The young performance by Danica Mansoor, Phoenix Jasmy and Scarlett Heldt was very entertaining with their singing and dancing. Singing and dancing truly runs in the Collins blood !

The arrival of Santa is always a hit and it was no different this year. Collins Connect had the pleasure of our very own magic man

Damien Collins who played his role of Santa with ease. His antics and personality saw the children follow him around the hall until the goodies were distributed.



BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ), the Hampton Park Youth took the carols up a notch with their upbeat and cheerful music had many tapping their feet and applauding with their variety of songs from Christmas with you (Cass & Michael), Run Run Rudolph (Michael, Sheldon, Cass), Mary did you know, Frosty the snowman and Rocking around the Christmas tree. Big applause for the youthful talent on show!



Finally it was time for group singing led by the Collins Family of **Marian Collins, Corrine Collins, Angel D'Silva, Lauren Rafferty, Alan D'Cruz, Marian D'Cruz, Gillian Dirckze** and **Leylan Lamb** backed by musicians **Barry Collins, Mario D'Cruz, Melroy Rodrigues, Damien Collins** and **Shehan Bodinagoda**. All attendees were encouraged to sing along with their Collins Connect Carol books.



A final rendition by the **Jingle Bell Carolers** of their signature song 'Hurry Hurry Home' brought the Carols to the end of another successful Collins Connect Family Christmas Carols.

Thank you to all our family and friends who attended, participated and enjoyed the entertaining afternoon. We hope to see you back for the Collins Connect Christmas Carols in 2023.



Acknowledgement and credit to the many family and friends who contributed to the Collins Connect Family Christmas Carols to make it an outstanding success. Lots of positive feedback was received with a request to go bigger next year !!

With grateful thanks to the following family and friends for their dedication and support for the event:

- * Lauren Rafferty, Corrine Collins, Elvis Collins and Karen Collins (Founding Members)
- * Drayton and Lizzie Thomas, Jarryd Fernandes and Sheldon D'Silva (Committee Members)
- * Monty Stephens, Becky Stephens and Carlton Medera
- * Benjamin Rafferty (young talented musician)
- * Conchita Jasmy, Darryl Collins, Marian Collins, Angel D'Silva, Corrine Collins, Lauren Rafferty, Alan D'Cruz, Gillian Dirckze and Leylan Lamb (Singers)
- * Barry Collins, Damien Collins, Mario D'Cruz, Sonny Rodrigues, Ralph Rodrigues and Melroy Rodrigues (Musicians)
- * Sharlene Heldt and 'The Jingle Bells Carollers' for the nativity play, dancing and music.
- * Russel and Glynis Rodrigues, Errol Edmonds and the 'Royapuram' singers.
- * BASIC (Hampton Park Youth) for their uplifting music and Sheldon coordinating the group.
- * Keith Collins, Maureen Borthwick, Maria Rafferty, Ainslie and Anne Collins, Grenville Rafferty, Jackie Xavier, Conchita and Gary Jasmy for your contributions.
- * Vicky Collins and Bianca Collins for their assistance at the Christmas stall
- * Our junior trainees Benjamin and Zara Rafferty.
- * John Kumar Photography and CameraOne



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Want to help?

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.