From left, are SACO/TTYP chairman Andrew Listhrop; musical director Kenneth Listhrop; US ambassador Beatrice W Welters; and Anthony Welters, with the orchestra and the Euangelion Singers.

Foundation treat Welters' to musical greatness

More than 600 people, including Chief Justice Ivor Archie and US ambassador Beatrice W Welters, turned up at Queen's Hall in St Ann's, on March 11 for the concert hosted by the US-based Vincent Wilkinson Foundation and the St Augustine Chamber Orchestra.

The show, entitled Growing to Greatness, was a "thank you" gift for music philantrophists Anthony and Beatrice Welters, and featured the musical talent of the Trinidad & Tobago Youth Philharmonic (TTYP).

Last month the Welters had purchased all of the musical instruments for the TTYP.

The initiative stemmed from their witnessing the musical skills of TTYP's 144 talented youth in August last year during a performance of a repertoire of Great Classical Overtures, under the guidance of their music director, Kenneth Listhrop. During the performance Listhrop had appealed to members of the audience for assistance in purchasing the rare and costly "dinosaur" instruments of the symphony orchestra.

Inspired by their love of the performing arts, the Welters have established an endowment at the John F Kennedy Centre to train young African-American artistes, and fund a summer internship program at the Wolf Trap to assist students from historically Black colleges and universities who are interested in arts management. They have been long time supporters of the National Symphony

Annually, the Welters also provide 25 scholarships for students in the Washington DC area through the Horatio Alger Scholars Programme. Additionally, the Welters provide seven scholarships to music students to attend the summer programme at the prestigious Aspen Music School.

Members of the St Augustine Chamber Orchestra and the Euangelion Singers.

A cross section of the audience.