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Release:

Music crosses all barriers as it build relationships and bring cultures together.

Visiting American Band the Dina Preston Band held a Music Interactive session with students from the School of Education at the Lautoka Campus.

The session allowed students to learn about different music a combine interactive live performance of set works with detailed musical analysis and composition.

The Trainee Music teachers also got a chance to perform with the visiting band to develop and refine their composition ideas.

Students also got the opportunity to ask questions, dissect ideas, manipulate sounds, challenge their knowledge and create their own compositions.

Band member Don Ortiz said the band was overwhelmed with the reception they received from FNU and the interactive session they held with students from the Music department.

“This is our first time to Fiji and so far has been enjoyable experience. When we got in we had half a day off to take in some sights and try out the food. But the best thing so far is to see so many smiling faces around us,” he said.

“Coming out here to FNU we have enjoyed the interactive session which was about building relationships and bringing cultures together through Music and tradition. Music crosses all barriers, its universal and it’s the key in bringing everyone together.”

Mr Ortiz said the goal of the tour was to expose the Fijian broader public to authentic American music genres such as country, rock and blues while also sharing entrepreneurial experience with students and business community.

He said Fiji’s music industry had a lot to offer. Adding that a lot was in stored for its musician and the industry, especially here at FNU with its students learning to write and teach music.

He added that he hoped that the interactive session not only boosted the student’s learning sense about music but also about learning how to create a business sense.

Meanwhile PE and Music student Christopher Chand said this was a great interactive session as it opened their eyes and mind to genres from the US that have also been influencing Fijis music industry.

He said as trainee teachers they could take back what they had learnt here and try and apply this to areas within their programme of study.

“It would be great to have an upgrading for equipment that we use after watching what these professional artists use. But no doubt this is a boost to our learning process,” he said.

“We all really enjoyed “jamming” and the workshop giving us a lot of ideas. The musicians and workshop leaders were passionate, inspirational, fearless and really supportive.

“This was a fabulous idea, interactive activities that really made us think. I will take away lots of new ways to use instruments which I do not play myself.”

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