

# LUZERNE MUSIC CENTER

2020  
CAMPAIGN

FOR  
LUZERNE  
MUSIC  
CENTER

## ALUMNI PROFILE

*Glen Inanga*

Like the ripples that skim across the surface of Lake Luzerne when a camper jumps into its pristine waters, Glen Inanga's first summer at Luzerne Music Center in 1988 kicked into motion a reaction that has cascaded from Nigeria to the United States and on to the Cayman Islands, reaching hundreds of young musicians.

"One good deed 30 years ago has evolved into a massive ripple effect," said Inanga, a pianist, assistant professor at University College Cayman Islands and co-founder of the biennial Cayman Arts Festival. "That is powerful to me. It's very humbling."

When Inanga was growing up in Nigeria in the mid-1980s, he met American piano teacher Fran Hutson at a luncheon held by influential Nigerian businessmen. She heard him play a Mozart sonata, then offered to teach him.

"She realized as soon as she met me that I was a big fish in a little pond," Inanga recalled. "I wanted to do more than what the country could do for me."

Hutson knew about Luzerne Music Center and said it would be "just the right thing" for Inanga. She secured funding for him to attend, including airfare, and he flew halfway around the world to upstate New York at age 14.

"It was the most phenomenal four weeks," Inanga said. "It has been a life-changing moment in my entire life."

Inanga returned to LMC the following summer, then went on to become a faculty member. Now, Inanga returns to perform as part of the Luzerne Chamber Music Festival. "The rest is really history," he said. "It changed my outlook on life in so many ways."

After solidifying a successful career, Inanga co-founded the Cayman Arts Festival, which includes a scholarship program for young musicians to attend LMC. For six years, the program funded camp for one child; two years ago, a few children; and last year, six children. He plans to send 10 in 2021.

"They learn from other kids the way you can never teach them yourself," Inanga said. "Being around your peers and seeing them progress inspires you."

*"LMC has been a force in my development. Everything has come full circle; it gives meaning to what has happened in past and what is happening in present. It's the cycle of life."*

