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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier University of Louisiana, the “diamond of the season,” was gifted brand-new band uniforms during Spring Waltz celebrating upcoming “Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story”

New Orleans, La – On Saturday evening, April 15, 2023, a most exhilarating affair was held on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana. Hundreds of students from Xavier’s other sister Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) attended a waltz sponsored by streaming giant Netflix celebrating the upcoming premiere of “Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story.” A prequel to “Bridgerton,” one of Netflix’s most popular series, “Queen Charlotte” follows the young Black queen’s rise to prominence and power. Attendees wore their most elegant fashions and were treated to iHeartRadio personality and songwriter [Sheba Songz](#) as the MC and guest performances by the all-female [Original Pinettes Brass Band](#) and New Orleans’ own Queen of Bounce, Big Freedia. Then, the 87th Miss Xavier University of Louisiana, Nina Giddens, and the 8th Mister Xavier, Zion Rouge, had the honor of unveiling the special gift that “Queen Charlotte” graciously granted the Xavier University of Louisiana Golden Sound Marching Band; their first ever official uniforms.

“The gift of a set of band uniforms is nothing short of a blessing! This gift grants us the ability to properly represent our university,” said **Darren Rodgers, Jr., director of the Golden Sound Marching Band at Xavier University of Louisiana**. “Our school colors in such a beautiful design will demand the attention of all. We are very excited to take yet another step towards solidifying our existence and image as an HBCU marching band.”

The celebration was a love letter to royal culture at HBCUs. Xavier’s campus royalty made appearances, including Xavier University of Louisiana President Dr. Reynold Verret and the Xavier Royal Court. Queens from other HBCUs were also cordially invited and attended, with Aleya Barber, Miss Tuskegee University, Jerika Edwards, Miss Dillard University and Taverlyn Shepard, Miss Prairie View A&M University, receiving the royal treatment during their visit. Xavier’s Golden Starlettes Dance Team also performed after the introduction of the Royal Court. After playing a “Queen Charlotte” trailer on Xavier’s jumbotron, a recorded message from “Queen Charlotte” showrunner Shonda Rhimes heralded the announcement of the gift to the Golden Sound.

Later in the evening, Big Freedia performed her recently released “Bridgerton” themed “[Hey Queen](#)” New Orleans Bounce Remix and several of her other signature songs. Earlier this week, Netflix and Shondaland [announced a remix](#) to the Strong Black Lead “Hey Queen” series featuring Big Freedia’s [special bounce remix](#).

The evening’s celebration took place on and around a floral circular stage rendered from the crown Queen Charlotte wears in the show. The 20-foot-tall crown weighed over 2000 lbs. and had over 1,600 intricate beads as well as 160 metal-cut flowers.

Centered on Queen Charlotte’s rise to prominence and power, this prequel in the “Bridgerton” universe tells the story of how the young queen’s marriage to King George sparked both a great love story and a societal shift, creating the world of the Ton inherited by the characters in “Bridgerton.” “Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story” launches globally on May 4 only on Netflix.

Click [here](#) to view a video of the event and [here](#) to download pictures.

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana, America’s only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier’s College of Pharmacy is also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African American and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience and genetics, in addition to new STEM-based master’s programs, have provided Xavier students (3,419 students) an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty, who are experts in their fields, to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or rreyes@xula.edu.