



International Student Spotlight

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From Luton to Lacombe: A Journey Scored in Faith, Rhythm, and Purpose



If you listen closely, you can almost hear it—the soft hum of airplanes lifting off from **Luton, England**, the distant rhythm of a city waking up, and the quiet heartbeat of a newborn child whose life would one day be shaped by music, movement, and mission. It was in Luton, a town known for its diversity and vibrant cultural tapestry, that **Michael Isabirye** first opened his eyes to the world. His earliest memories are wrapped in the cool English air, the warmth of family, and the gentle guidance of a big sister who unknowingly set the pace for the man he would become.

Michael’s family roots stretch deep into the red soils of **Uganda**, a heritage he carries with pride. Though born in the UK, his story soon shifted eastward—across continents and cultures—to **Kenya**, where he spent his formative years. It was there, surrounded by community, faith, and opportunity, that his identity began to take shape.

His educational journey started in primary school in the UK, but it was **Maxwell Adventist Academy** in Kenya that became the training ground for his character, discipline, and leadership. He graduated from Maxwell with a worldview shaped by diversity and a heart tuned toward service. And then came the chapter that would change everything.

A Leap of Faith to Burman University

Michael’s path to Burman University is a testimony of God’s orchestration. His sister had come first—through miracles, open doors, and divine timing. She thrived here, and her joy became a beacon for Michael.

Burman made sense. It was the most affordable Adventist university in North America, yes—but it was also a place where faith, community, and opportunity converged. Following in his sister’s

footsteps, Michael chose Burman as the home for his tertiary education, not knowing that he would soon become one of the most recognizable and influential student leaders on campus.

A Musician with a Mission

Today, Michael stands proudly as a final-year student, graduating in the first weekend of May with a **Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education**, specializing in **Music**, with a **minor in Physical Education**.

He has completed all his theory coursework, is presently on practicum. His passion is clear: **To teach music**. To shape minds. To inspire hearts. To use music as a bridge—between people, cultures, and ultimately, between humanity and Jesus.

A Campus Leader, A Creative Force, A Builder of Community

Michael's fingerprints are everywhere on campus life.

- **Student Dean** – serving with maturity, compassion, and integrity
- **Campus Musician** – a constant presence in worship, events, and productions
- **Basketball Team Member** – bringing energy and teamwork to the court
- **Vice President & President of the Burman Black Students Association (BBSA)** – elevating Black voices, culture, and unity
- **Reviver of the Drumline Program** – breathing life back into a beloved tradition
- **Drumline Director** – leading with rhythm, creativity, and excellence

Michael doesn't just participate, he builds, he leads, he transforms.

A Legacy Written in Sound and Spirit

When asked what he hopes his legacy will be, Michael's answer is simple yet profound:

“Using music, I want to give people a deeper understanding and love of music—one that brings them closer to Jesus and closer to each other.”

This is the heartbeat of his journey. This is the melody that has carried him from Luton to Kenya, from Uganda to Lacombe. This is the rhythm that will guide him into the next chapter.

Michael plans to continue working in diverse musical circles—teaching, directing, arranging, producing, and inspiring. His future is bright, and his purpose is clear.

Congratulations, Michael!

As you prepare to walk across the stage this May, the entire Burman University family celebrates you. Your story is global. Your impact is local. Your legacy is eternal.

Congratulations on your graduation, Michael Isabirye. The international office is truly proud of you. Your journey has been extraordinary, and the best is yet to come.