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In his father's footsteps

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Music came naturally to Amrit Samaroo

By CALDEO SOOKRAM

AMRIT SAMAROO had always looked on with interest and curiosity as his father Jit rehearsed on the tenor pan at home.

Then one day, with nobody around, he picked up a pair of pan sticks and pounded out a few

notes of the national anthem, the only tune he knew. He had learnt it at school.

The talent displayed by five-year-old Amrit was a good sign, Jit thought, and he proceeded to teach his son a little more of the techniques in panmanship.

To date Amrit has already bagged a few trophies for out-

standing performances with the tenor pan.

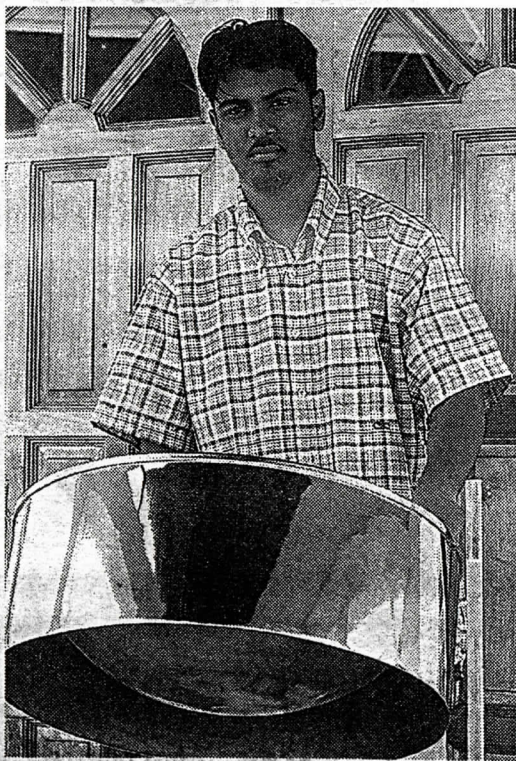
He recently emerged winner in the pan soloist category of the National Junior Steelband Festival with his rendition of "A Canary Call" composed by his father.

Prior to that, Amrit had won the 1992 San Fest pan contest for

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primary schools. Again he came second in the Trinidad and Tobago Music festival soloist category in 1995.

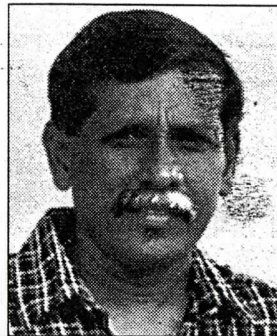
With his father as his main tutor, Amrit has developed a love for music. He loves all types of



AMRIT SAMAROO

music — classics, calypso, reggae, jazz, Indian, Latin American and parang. He however, prefers classics in the mould of Mozart and other European composers, since to conquer that field of music is a real challenge.

A student of St Augustine Community College, Amrit finds time to play with the family band, the Samaroo Jets. He has performed at several musical evenings and at their musical concert at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain entitled



JIT SAMAROO

"Original Notes" last September 25 and 26.

But unlike his father who spent many years in the family garden cultivating the land, Amrit has no time for agriculture. Gardening is not a part of

his curriculum. He likes swimming in the Lopinot River and playing a little cricket, football and table tennis at school.

His father had played cricket on the road but quit football after he was kicked by an opposing player on the Surrey Village sports ground. The incident put an end to a brief but promising sporting career.

At home, Amrit listens to a lot of music, practises on the tenor pan and helps out with work around the house. In school he studies geography, biology, social studies, mathematics and English.

And while his options are open for pursuing a career in several fields, he is looking seriously at a career in music.

Last year Amrit was induct-

ed into Hinduism by his godfather, Pundit Jeewan Maharaj, son of Hindu Damarcharya Pundit Krishna Maharaj. His mother, Balmatie, being a devout Hindu, ensures that he follows the religion of his forefathers. With his two elder brothers Krishna and Bobby, and younger sister Amrita, attending pujas and Ramayan Yagnas has become a regular feature of family life.

To date, Amrit has not made any foreign trips with the Samaroo Jets, but the time will come, he says. Once, two years ago, he travelled to St Thomas with his family for vacation. Right now, he says his emphasis is on getting a good education so that all his options would remain open.