

IN THE GROOVE: The Codrington Pan Family on stage delivering their winning performance.



SECOND PLACED: Duvonne Stewart plays the E Pan with Bp Renegades. -Photos: GARY CARDINEZ

# Codrington Pan Family retains title

**Gary Cardinez**

THE Codrington Pan Family proved that they are a force to be reckoned with when they retained the Trinidad and Tobago Steelpan and Jazz Challenge title at the Queen's Park Savannah on Sunday.

Playing in position number five, Cary Codrington and his family came on stage with saxophone, bass guitar, keyboards and percussions to complement their pans. From their choice of songs "Pan Night and Day" and "Old Lady Walk a Mile and a Half" by Kitchener, it was obvious that the small audience present was in for a treat.

This is a group of multi-talented individuals who have come a long way. They form a cohesive unit, interchanging instruments and bringing out the best of each other and the instruments. Former Pan Solo champion Keisha, played drums, keyboards and several pans on arrangements by her father Cary. When they were finished the audience showed their appreciation with a thunderous round of applause.

Codrington Pan Family's performance was significant because they came after second placed by Renegades who came on stage with a "magic drum" in the form of the E Pan played by Duvonne Stewart. Renegades played Amrit Samaroo's arrangement of "Steelband Times" and "Magic Drum" and the E-Pan did indeed give the performance a touch of magic while being supported by keyboards and guitar.

Chantal Esdelle and Moyenne placed third with their rendition of "Kaiso Kaiso" and "Mambo Inn". This performance featured great solo work by Douglas Reddon on the bass and Esdelle on keyboards. Fourth place went to Golden Hands, another group of talented youths led by Venessa Headley. They came into the final as leaders but fell short with their performance of "Back to School" and "Mambo Inn". This time around the performance was much too loud.

Another band to receive thunderous applause was the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for their performance of "Respect Our Culture" and "Love in the Cemetery". The band played with a bass guitar, keyboards and three pieces of brass alongside the pans and produced a big band sound of Kern Sumerville's arrangements.

Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille came in sixth with Kareem Brown's arrangement of "Trini" and "Be Careful". Brown also used the E-Pan to enhance their performance. Couva Joylanders' performance of "Sweet Music" and "Be Careful" provided the audience with one of the best marriages of pan and traditional instrument on Kenrick Frederick's arrangements. They used Francis Prime on saxophone, Dan Clarke on trumpet and Clifford Charles on guitar and all complemented the pans wonderfully.

Sforzata came in eighth with their rendition of Kenneth Guppy's arrangement of "Boogie Calypso" and "The Carnival is Over". Organisers of the Challenge, the QRC Foundation, should look at bringing the stage under the Grand Stand and eliminate the use of the tent on stage. The dome tent traps the sound as the players perform. Another problem is the volume at which the music is played. Even if the engineer gets his sound levels right it seems that the players are playing too loudly resulting in the judges hearing more noise than music.