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Jit arranges for Moods to do wonders

The Beat Goes On

BY UPTEMPO

JIT SAMAROO has copped second place in the New York Panorama competition in what is the first time the super shy, master arranger has stepped out of his crease to do arrangements for steelbands outside of Trinidad and Tobago. He now joins a long list of his contemporaries including Beverly Griffith, Clive Bradley, Ken Philmore, Len Sharpe, Earl Brooks, Robert Greenidge, Anise Hadeed, and Rudy Smith, all of whom have flavoured the international Panorama pot from time to time.

Samaroo has done wonders with Moods Pan Groove in a short space of time. In fact he only spent three days with the band in New York before flying out to join Renegades in Osaka, Japan.

He wrote a 24-page manuscript arrangement for Moods, which was put down in part by Eddie Quarless. Moods has been one of the most popular bands in New York since it was formed after Labour Day 1975 and won the Panorama competition in 1977 with a scintillating rendition of Kitch's "Crawford", arranged by Boogsie.

Since that time, Moods has always been the bridesmaid at the Labour Day Panorama

competitions, despite having Len Sharpe as its arranger. Even in 1994, when Robert Greenidge, in Boogsie's absence, arranged a hot "No Wuk For Carnival", the band did not make it to the top three.

This year the New York pan fraternity had written Moods off completely as Boogsie and the band's management

had a rift which saw the gifted arranger lining up with Pan Rebels.

Even the captain of Moods, who is a nephew of band manager Clyde Durant and was born at 910 St John's Avenue, Brooklyn, where the band has always operated from, left to play with Pan Rebels who had placed second the past two years.

Moods, however, did not lie down and roll over. Selwyn "Fruits" Williams, formerly of Arima Angel Harps and Pan Trinbago, took control of the band and was the person responsible for convincing Samaroo to take the plunge.

The band comprised mainly of young players of Point Fortin New Edition, who were in the "Big Apple" for the summer, and some old stalwarts like Victor "Babu" Samuel of Antigua and ex-captain Pat Phillips who flew out from Trinidad where he was assisting in the forma-

tion of a new band, Papa Pan Techno Sounds:

Despers USA copped the first place while Pan Rebels finished a disappointing sixth.

The Labour Day celebrations went off relatively incident free and once again the recently introduced J'Ouvert morning pan parade was really the highlight of the celebrations.

Huge crowds thronged Flatbush Avenue and Invaders USA had the biggest following with old Invaders panmen playing such nostalgic favourites as Liberstrum.

The exodus of calypsonians for home has

begun as summer phases out and the hawk descends on warm blooded Trininis.

David Rudder will be heating up the Jean Pierre Complex today and tomorrow as he appears once again in concert, supported by Ella Andall and his old riding pardner, Chris "Tambu" Herbert. A Rudder concert is always something to look forward to.

Top rap group the Fugees should be packing in a different crowd to the Savannah on Sunday when it appears, riding the crest of enormous popularity.

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