

Boogsie, Jit in the lead

BOOGSIE stands a good chance of having five steelbands in the national final, plus TCL Skiffle Bunch, defending the title in the pan-round-neck category.

Boogsie's other entries for the national semi-final are Trintopec Starlift, Curepe Scherzando and Potential Symphony.

Another arranger who is enjoying remarkable success in this year's Panorama competition is Jit Samaroo, who has three bands in the semi-final. Jit's three bands are Amoco Renegades, Dunlop Tornadoes and Sangre Grande Cordettes.

After a "grap" of bands elected to perform Rudder's *Panama* at the preliminaries of their respective zones, most of them have been weeded out, with just three making it into the semi-final. The *Panama* posse in this pan showdown include WITCO Desperadoes, Vat 19 Fonclaire and Dunlop Tornadoes. Each of these bands has been fortunate to have arrangers who are up to the challenges posed by this selection, and even better, and higher heights, of performances are expected next Thursday from this threesome.

Last time out, Boogsie got the upper hand on Ray Holman with his arrangement of Holman's *My Band*, for Trintopec Starlift. The intrigue of the "duel" between

these two great pan musicians will only end when the final note is struck at the national final, and the results read.

It's also interesting to note that, of the three orchestras being served by Bradley, the one going into the preliminary with the longest odds was the one to make it further than last Sunday's national preliminary. Fertrin Pandemonium is a band with a lot of heart and, if given full attention, is capable of being a national Panorama champion.

Pandemonium's membership is young, but with the kind of foundation which was laid, back in the seventies, by men and women like Ray Holman, Conrad Franklyn, Jim St Rose, Derek Faria, Carlyle "C.J." Baptiste, Michael Flores, Everaldo Ferreira, Ange David, Sherma Clarke, Michael Samai, Shaka Nkosi, Jenny Fabien, Cheryl Phillip, Josephine Alexander, Corinne and Michelle Jones, Michael Leslie, Jeffrey and Michael Seales, Joseph Lee Pack, Pamela, June, Carol and Sandra, and more recently Barry Nanton, Gerry Sheppard and "Lenny Wilkins" Chase, a certain degree of "stick-to-it-iveness" and dedication has remained.

With the absence of bands like Solo Harmonites, Birdsong, Gerizim Angel Harps and Merrytones, Panorama 1988 is that much poorer, in terms of competitiveness.

The Headley brothers, two musicians I have been hearing about since I was a little boy, when they participated as ping-pong soloists in Steelband Music Festival, have once more given Trintoc Invaders one hel-

lva sweet arrangement. Of course, that level of music would not have been possible without those exquisitely tuned instruments by Vernon "Birdie" Mannette.

When Invaders began performing Bally's *Bacchanal Start*, there was a hush through the Savannah as few people knew the melody of the relatively unknown piece. By the end of the performance, both stands erupted in cheers for Mannette's overwhelming instruments had made an indelible impression on everyone's consciousness with this "unknown symphony."

I was very happy when the judges recognised the good music that was executed by Arima Golden Symphony, and rewarded the band with a place in the national semi-final and East Final. Terrence "B.J." Marcelle's arrangement of *Pan in Me* is one which can go very far, especially if Golden Symphony can put its hands on a few more front-line and mid-range pans.

Cordettes have been given a well-balanced arrangement of *A Nation Forges On* by Jit Samaroo. The piece will be considerably enhanced if it is played next Thursday night at a slightly quicker clip.

It is also interesting to note that, of the 16 semi-finalists, 11 are sponsored. Perhaps the planners of Panorama would consider introducing a separate category for unsponsored bands (which have never won a title); or, a contest for bands with 40-75 players. This will bring to the fore some good music which goes unnoticed, simply because a band is too small to create the kind of impact which demands attention.



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