

NEWS

ML 1040

SCHOOLS STEELBAND FESTIVAL:

**Merchant's 'Pan In
Danger' is the test piece** ✓

By SEAN NERO

AN ORIGINAL work by the late Dennis Franklyn, better known in the calypso fraternity as Merchant has been chosen as test piece for the staging of this year's biennial Schools' Steelband Music Festival. His "Pan In Danger" will be the test piece.

The event is scheduled to begin from November 1.

Under the theme "Steelband — Pride of our Nation," the event is a presentation of the Pan In Schools Co-ordinating Council (PSCC), a division of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA).

Band arrangers are expected to give the tune their own adaptation but it must not exceed four minutes in length. For the tune of choice, bands can choose a song of Caribbean or Latin American in origin or genre, which also has a time stipulation of six minutes.

The festival has two band categories: junior and senior as well as an ensemble division and the soloists.

According to the rules governing the festival, participants in the senior category must not be 21 years of age on the commencement date of the competition, and the juniors must not be age 16 by November 20.

The number of performing members for the respective steel orchestras in both the junior and senior divisions must not be less than 15 nor more than 50, while the ensembles are required to have no less than three but no more than ten.

The junior bands are required to perform just one musical selection, the tune of choice, which must be four minutes long and also of Caribbean or Latin American in origin.

The festival is open to all schools in Trinidad and Tobago registered by the Ministry of Education as well as pan schools and youth clubs that satisfies the festival's criteria. This year the focus is on Latin America, and it is hoped that in the future the festival will be used to expose the schools and youth organisations to new musical expressions and the cultures of other regions.

The preliminary round, which is scheduled to take place from the November 1-5, is patterned from the 1997 programme staged by Pan Trinbago where bands performed at their respective schools with exception of the final scheduled for the Jean Pierre Complex on November 19, beginning at 6 pm.

The soloists and ensembles final will take place on November 12, at a venue to be announced.