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Workshop hopes to push pan music in schools

SOME 20 secondary students recently participated in an eight-week Pan Music workshop, a pilot project developed by N.E.M. (West Indies) Insurance Limited in association with pan inventor and musician, Denzil Fernandez, music teacher Merle Albino-De Couteau and teacher Theodore Findlay.

The students came from Belmont Junior Secondary, St Francois Girls', Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive, St James Secondary, South East Port of Spain Secondary and Trinity College.

HERE Denzil Fernandez (in striped jersey) demonstrates his latest invention, the U-Bass, to an intrigued group which included (in striped tie) Anthony Inglefield, general manager-administration and development of the N.E.M. (West Indies) Insurance Limited; (centre) music teacher Merle Albino-De Couteau; and students from the workshop.

Objectives were to promote music literacy among pannists and to expose participants to the techniques of playing. Pan construction was also introduced to give participants first-hand experience in actually making their own pans.

Belmont Band

According to a release from Corbin Compton Limited, the workshop is to be evaluated in order to refine the programme for future workshops. It is hoped that it can assist in the design and development of pan music programmes for introduction into school curricula throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Meanwhile, Belmont Junior Secondary School Steelband will leave this month for the United States on a four-week tour.