

MUSIC EXAM FOR PANMEN

SOME aspiring panmen won't be putting their pans away on Ash Wednesday. They'll still be practising—for the first graded pan exams, to be held at the Creative Arts Centre, St Augustine, in April.

Dr Anne Osborne, 43, co-ordinator of academic music programmes at the Centre, said the pan syllabus, from the concept to the printed music, was developed from scratch. It was put together in collaboration with Pan Trinidad.

"I did the syllabus and sample tests while Satanand Sharma and Harold Headley chose the music and adapted it to suit pan," she said.

Osborne has a doctorate in music education from Indiana University. Sharma has a degree in music from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, while Headley studied at Northern Illinois University for his master's in pan performance.

Most musical instruments—piano, violin, percussions and brass instruments—have exams, except pan, said Osborne.

"Our first objective is to encourage mainly children pannists to become musically literate. Thousands of children play pan, but most of them learn by rote, just in

time for Panorama or the Music Festival."

Music literacy opens a performer's understanding of what they are playing, she said.

For instance, students of the Centre's two-year certificate in music (pan) course, analysed "Boogie" Sharpe's "Faces of Trinidad and Tobago" and were

surprised to discover the keys and chord

progressions they had been playing.

The Layne twins, Anuska and Niasha, have been pursuing the

course since September.

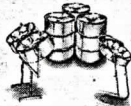
Osborne said people have been buying the music but how many will sit the exams will

not be known until March 1, the closing date for enrollment.

The exams in solo pan performance will be held from April 18-21 at the Centre, University of the West Indies.

Exams have been set for tenors, double tenors and double seconds. Those who succeed will receive a certificate.

—Sandra Chouthi



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