

It all started with Artillery Bands

in 1834

MASQUERADE one dictionary meaning is ntertainment involving pectacle which is ex-ravagant.

In primitive societies rocessions were one of he basic demonstration f communal unity.

In the simplest form the whole community joined he procession. In other rms only selected ones, riest, virgins, warriors or example, representing particular status or nterest, took part.

These processions or arades showed in ymbolic form the haracteristics of the articular lifestyle of the roup.

The outer form and

content of Trinidad and Tobago's unique carnival reflects, not surprisingly, the national capacity for creativity, a tradition of extravagance as well as the societal preoccupation with ephemeral distractions.

On the other hand the inner significance and meaning of this enduring annual spectacle must be in an understanding of the complete forces which over the past centuries have shaped the social structures and influenced the cultural development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The abolition of slavery in 1834 marked a significant point of

departure in the celebration of Carnival in Trinidad.

Prior to 1834 carnival was a "high society" affair, of elaborate balls masking and costuming, street promenading in carriages and house to house visiting all confined exclusively to the Whites.

In 1834 black lower class masqueraders calling themselves Artillery Bands paraded the streets as a mock detachment of the Militia Band, openly satirizing

the military authorities and thus establishing the nature and form of lower class participation in future celebrations.

These Artillery Bands of 1834 were the forerunners of the very large naval and military

bands which were to become a permanent feature of Trinidad Carnival.

The upper classes up until the post war period maintained their social distance at Carnival.

They paraded the streets first on trucks and when they took to the streets their bands were "roped off".

Now all sections of the community claim equal rights to the enjoyment of the masquerade and now here is the democratic, one might even say the republican tendencies and privileges, so clearly seen as on Carnival days on the streets of Trinidad and Tobago.



NOW PAN WITH BRASS IN BRASSORAMA

PAN ENTHUSIASTS, music lovers and all true Trinidadians can look forward to an exciting innovation this Carnival.

Pan with Brass as presented by Phase 11 Pan Groove in the Annual Brassorama competition is sure to provoke a lot of interest and some incisive commentary on the use of the steelpan as a conventional musical instrument in a brass band.

The rules of the National Brassorama competition which is run by the CDC state that bands participating in this competition must consist of a minimum of ten players with at least four blowing instrument.

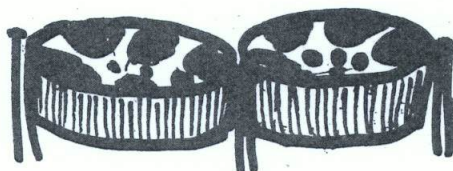
Bands will be required to play a current local calypso tune of their choice. Time allowed will be seven minutes.

Brassbands have always played an important part in our Carnival as accompaniment for the fancy dreas bands.

Brassorama competition has certainly come into its own as a regular feature of CDC's

Marcellin, Joey Lewis and Kalyan, competing bands now come from Fyzabad, Palo Seco, Maracas Valley, San Raphael, South Oropouche, Arouca, Arima, and Tobago.

Of course the use of the pan as an instrument in



presenations. It has in fact turned out to be a truly national competition.

Besides the big guys, many of whom have been around for many years like Ray Sylvester, Mano

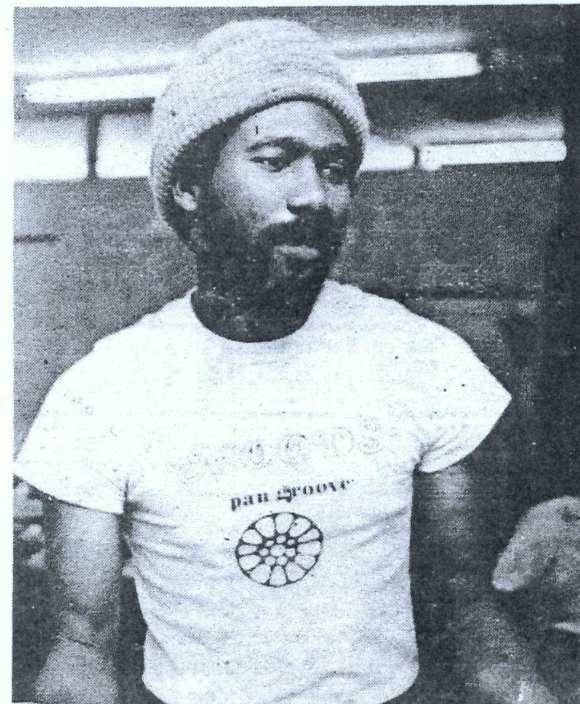
music bands is not entirely new. The persons mainly responsible for developing this experiment has been Clive Zanda and his group including that master pianist Boysie Sharpe.

The preliminaries of the Brassorama competition takes place at the Queen's Park Savannah on Sunday, February 10, and seven finalists will be slected to appear in the finals.

The finals of this competition will be held at the Queen's Park Savannah on Tuesday, February 12, 1980, when the seven finalists will compete against 1979 Brassorama Champs Mano Marcellin Band, for the big cash prizes.

In all \$6,650 will be shared among the five winners in the preliminaries, first prize in the finals is \$5000.

The criteria for judging the Brassorama competition will be general performance 20 points, arrangements 50 points tone and balance 30 points.



A Young Boogie Sharpe