

SILVER STARS STEEL ORCHESTRA  
in concert outside City Hall, Port of  
Spain, on Wednesday.

Photo: ANDREA DE SILVA

ML1040  
Pan week  
ends  
tomorrow  
with...

Express 9/6/83 p.37



# The ultimate jam

By TERRY JOSEPH

**F**OURTEEN steelbands will today participate in three public activities, setting the pace for tomorrow's massive street jam, which is guaranteed to empty thousands of revellers into the Queen's Park Savannah, to witness the fireworks display and so bring down the curtain on Pan Week 1996.

Now in its fourth year, the week-long celebration (which began on Sunday last) is geared to observe annually, the official declaration that pan is the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thousands gathered on the opening day at the *Pan on Broadway* concert, in which 11 steelbands shared six hours of a street party in downtown Port of Spain and did so, immediately following a two-hour concert by pan virtuoso Liam Teague, just a block away and a parade from that bandstand to Broadway; fuelled by the music of the Spree Simon Harmonics.

All week, there had been two-hour pan concerts each evening outside City Hall, and soloists filled the lunch time slots at the same venue, while others played at TSTT offices in north, east and south Trinidad.

On Tuesday, as soloist Marcus Steele performed at the City Hall venue, members of the Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company of Syracuse, who had just completed a courtesy call on Acting Mayor, Murchisson Brown, joined the pannist by doing impromptu dance interpretations of his work and to the absolute delight of the small audience and passerby.

Last night, the Pan Awards ceremony was scheduled to come off at the Central Bank Auditorium where today, a youth symposium, chaired by Glenda Esdelle, will formalise the constitution of a Youth Arm of Pan Trinidad and install its first President.

This evening, four school bands will perform at the

inaugural concert of *Pan on the Plaza*, a series of Friday evening shows sponsored annually by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and staged in front of the Twin Towers on the Brian Lara Promenade.

The Success Stars Pan Sounds, Arima Senior Comprehensive, St Augustine Senior Comprehensive and San Fernando Senior Comprehensive school steelbands will from 4.30 p.m. continue to project that aspect of youth at the two-hour *Pan on the Plaza* concert. Success Stars and Arima Snr Comp are joint reigning champions of the Republic Bank Pan Minors competition.

The Eastern Region of Pan Trinidad will from 11 a.m. today prepare various dishes which will be offered for sale at the Arima Angel Harps Pan Theatre in a Panyard Cookout; a form of rekindling the memories when the breadfruit tree was a major source of food for players.

On Wednesday night, there was a panel discussion on "Pan as a Business" at the same venue. Lecturers Clarry Benn and Anthony Watkins spoke on the topic, then panelists Eddie Yearwood, Ken Thomas, Selwyn Tarradath and Richard Forteau guided discussions on the subject.

Tonight, Calypsonians Trinidad Rio, Merchant, Ebony and Black Prince, together with the Mausica Folk Drummers will join four steelbands (Marsicans, Pan on the Move, United Sounds and Arima Angel Harps) at the panyard for a cultural show, which is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

At the Amoco Renegades Pan Theatre in Port of Spain, the Northern Region will present six steelbands, dancers and calypsonians in a show called Pan Spectacular, which will begin at 8.30 p.m. Apart from the host band, the Witco Desperadoes, Spree Simon Harmonics, Carib Tokyo, T&TEC Power Stars and Scrunters Pan Groove and the St James Tassa Drummers will play. The Sea Lots Village Council will provide drumming and dancing and there will be a DJ in the house. Admission is \$10.

During the week, the Northern Region had produced

three half-hour radio shows on FM 100, where discussions on the history, present situation and future of pan were held.

The South/Central region will, quite unfortunately, not be able to put on its presentation, which was supposed to feature their bands in a similar type excitement. Milton 'Wire' Austin called *Spotlight* to express regret that the person in whose honour their event was being held is no longer able to attend the function. Wire promised that the jam would be rescheduled.

**T**omorrow, from 5 p.m., Starlift and Exodus (both of whom have never missed a parade while in Trinidad) will kick off the street movement (*The Ultimate Jam*), which will also have music power from the WITCO Desperadoes, Petrotrin Invaders, Woodbrook Modernaires, Diego Martin West Stars, Amoco Renegades, Crazy Golden Eagles, Spree Simon Harmonics and The Flabej Ensemble, as revellers join the jam for a free ride from Broadway to the Queen's Park Savannah to witness the fireworks display there.

According to Cecil Malik Harewood, Chairman of the Northern Region, the jam is expected to be more fun than in previous years, with bands stopping at City Hall to pay tribute to the involvement of the Port of Spain Corporation and the Downtown Merchants Association (DOMA) for their sponsorship and help in the staging of the parade. Bands will also pause just above the Park Street intersection in respect of the involvement of the E Tung Restaurant in this venture.

After the fireworks display, the bands have been given permission to resume the jam and come back down Frederick Street to City Hall, where they can either disperse or follow prescribed routes in playing their way back to their panyards.

And so, with the ultimate out of season jam, endeth Pan Week 1996.