

BEAUTIFUL PAN BY ALL STARS

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CATELLI Trinidad All Stars won the "Pan Is Beautiful. Three" finals by scoring 803 points, three points more than Amoco Renegades which ran an impressive second. Behind them was Mat Securities Merrytones which made a great leap from eighth position in the semi-finals to third spot last Saturday night.

The thrilling event held in the Jean Pierre Sports Complex closed this year's steelband music festival — the third organised by Pan Trinbago.

The seven-member "little big band," Samaroo Jets, eased into the fourth place while Cordettes, Pamberi, Birdsong and Exodus finished a little way behind in fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth positions respectively.

Final placings were: Trinidad All Stars (803), Renegades (800), Merrytones (789), Samaroo Jets (785), Cordettes (737), Pamberi (731), Birdsong (728) and Exodus (724).

Probably out of final night nervousness, All Stars' standard of performance on Saturday was lower, judging from the band's semi-final score of 830 out of the same 900. Falling off, too, were Birdsong, Pamberi, Cordettes and Exodus which had scored higher points during the semis: 771, 766, 755 and 743 respectively.

By contrast, during the semis Renegades, Samaroo Jets, and

Merrytones had scored 789, 758, 745 respectively and rose to the occasion to take the title left vacant when Iscott Casablanca, the 1982 champs, were knocked out of the festival in the semis.

The score sheets also reveal that Merrytones, of Mason Street, Diego Martin, performed the greatest feat Saturday night by coming from behind to place third.

All Stars won the award for playing the best tune of choice: *Symphony No. 4 In F Minor — Opus 36* by Peter Tchaikovsky, but the band's arrangers, players and supporters must have felt a bit disappointed when Merrytones was awarded the prize for playing the best calypso, *Fete*, by Blue Boy — in view of All Stars' rousing rendition of Sparrow's *Doh Back Back* which had been described as "sensational" by one of the adjudicators and was always popular with the audience throughout the festival.

Many must have been surprised, too, when it was announced that Renegades won the award for being the band that rendered the best version of the test piece, *Così Fan Tutte*, by Mozart, and that band's rendition of J.J. Offenbach's *Orpheus In The Underworld* was described as "colourful" by Easeley Blackwood, one of three adjudicators.

Other persons who received awards last Saturday were steelband pioneers, Emile "Zola" Williams, of the now defunct Crusaders Steel Orchestra, and Anthony Williams, of the steel-

band rage during the '60s, Pan Am North Stars.

Three former presidents of the Trinidad and Tobago Steelband Association, Syndey Gallop, Cecil Hunt and George Goddard, also got awards for their services to the movement.

During a short address minutes before the winners were announced, Minister of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs, Marilyn Gordon, once again commended Pan Trinbago for shouldering the organising responsibility of this year's festival, and before ending, she sent out praises for two steelband composers, Jit Samaroo (*A Day In Surrie*) and Len "Boogsie" Sharpe (*Moods — Second Movement*) — these classical pieces were also praised by the adjudicators.