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Despers performs with Liza Minelli

REIGNING Steelband Music Festival champion, Witco Desperadoes, performs today at New York's Carnegie Hall alongside cabaret singer Liza Minelli and the New York Pops Symphony.

The Laventille Hill band has a week of engagements in New York, performing under the auspices of the tabloid newspaper, the New York *Daily News*.

Tomorrow, New York Mayor Edward Koch will officially welcome Despers and present the band with the keys to the city. The band will then give a performance at City Hall.

On Friday, Despers plays at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, and on Saturday the band gives two performances, one at the Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan and the other at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

At the Rockefeller Plaza show, Despers will be taped by NBC Television for a two-hour morning show on New York's Channel 4. During the taping, NBC will interview the band's musical director, Pat Bishop, and its leader, Robert Greenidge.

Prior to leaving Trinidad for New York last Sunday, members of the band were presented with sweaters by Rossi for use during their tour of New York.