

Quarter century of pan music

SHELL Invaders Steel Orchestra, one of the country's most popular steelbands, has added another big achievement to their long list—last month they cut a long playing stereo record which is guaranteed to be in the top selling bracket.

Selections are "Palet," "Pussy-cat," "Hang em High," "Mas in Brooklyn," "60 Million Frenchmen," "Batty Mamselle," "The Bull," "J'Ouvert 69," "Car-

nival in Rio," "The Merry Widow Waltz."

The record marks the steelband's silver anniversary which was celebrated on Sunday April 21 last year. In true steelband spirit representatives of every steelband were invited to mark a quarter century of sweet pan music.

It was during the war days that a group of people rallied round Stanley Hunte and formed the nucleus of what is today one of the

country's most famous bands.

Invaders — home of Ellie Mannette, rated as the most talented tuner the steelband movement has ever produced. Invaders — what sweet memories the name brings back to thousands.

No one else

The Invaders 'sound' they would tell you is a sound no one else can produce. Hear that bass section anywhere

and you would recognise it immediately: it cannot be duplicated.

Now that Ellie is abroad his brother, Vernon, has taken over the reign of captaincy. Vernon too is a tuner—has been for the past 21 years. He and Francis Wickham are today the only two founders who are still associated with the band.

Always famous for its 'sailor' mass, Invaders began making its presence

felt at pan competitions in 1961. That year it placed second at the steelband festival for its rendition of 'In a Monastery Garden'. In 1964 it placed third, and the tune was "Waltz from Serenade for Strings."

In 1966 its rendition of Water Music earned it second prize in the Bomb competition. At Panorama last year, it won the prize as the band with the best outfit and placed third in the People's Choice category.