



Members of Phase II Pan Groove playing at the Summer Festival in Japan take a break from their hectic schedule.

Phase II makes waves in Japan

EIGHT MEMBERS of top Woodbrook band Phase II Pan Groove have been making musical waves in Japan where they performed at the World Summer Festival last month.

Under the leadership of band arranger Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, the Phase II boys left for the Land of the Rising Sun in July and arrived in Nagasaki for the opening of the Festival on July 20.

There Phase II appeared along with 16 other cultural groups from all over the world including the USA, Europe and Asia. And according to reports, Phase II immediately established itself as the star attraction at the festival.

High Point

Writing to the rest of the band back home, Phase II members said that the group's performances won loud acclaim from the Japanese audiences at

the Summer Festival, especially Boogsie's playing.

The high point of the tour was when the Phase II aggregation had a jam session with members of the American Dixieland Jazz Band, playing unrehearsed performances of the Broadway classic "Summer Time" and Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff".

Recording Contract

This was so enthusiastically received that festival organisers hastily rescheduled several more jam sessions for the two groups. During the weekend when the Festival - which is in a Disney-world type setting - at-

tracts its biggest audiences.

Phase II members on tour received this review from a leading Japanese newspaper recently:

"The sound of the steel band is so unique that no other instrument can be its equivalent."

The Phase II guys are also performing at the Hotel Asaibo, and according to reports have received offers to play at other venues in Japan, as well as the possibility of taking up a recording contract in Tokyo.

Catelli All Stars storm London

By

DR PATRICIA GILLAN

CATELLI ALL STARS gave their last concert in London, at The Town and Country Club, sponsored by the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee.

Events had worked out well for the band, and Barbara Crichlow, band business co-ordinator and tenor bass player, discussed her involvement:

"My first trip to London was taken up with making arrangements for the tour. The Caribbean Music Village is the preliminary part of the tour and the organiser Prakash Daswani has been very helpful. Later we shall go to Edinburgh for the Commonwealth Arts Festival".

Portrait Of Trinidad

Poison, the leader, enthused about their tour: "We look forward to playing in Scotland, Cardiff, Leeds and Reading. Things are going smoothly. We got our pans alright last night".

When All Stars played in the open at the Caribbean Music Village it was hard to think they had not played together for a week. They were much appreciated, "Doh Back Back" and "Alabamba" both got the crowd swaying.

Christopher Herbert sang "Portrait of Trinidad" and brought back shades

of Sniper. Its interesting that Christopher and David Rudder, who are both Charlie's Roots men have landed up in the UK singing to pan, and they both do it well.

To be Objective

Smooth, the arranger, discussed his role, he has been arranging for All Stars since 1978. He disclosed: "Carnival is free involvement, you keep the spirit going and you lose flair if things are too regimented".

I remembered his "Soucoyant" arrangement for 1985.

I also recalled how frustrated I had felt when Phase II had been pipped at the post at Panorama. Of course as a reporter one has to be objective but its hard to interview a rival band if one's heart lies elsewhere.

Catelli All Stars packed out the open Air Theatre when they gave their evening performance there was nowhere left to sit or stand. Pan people from all over London had gathered to hear and enjoy a great band. It was a pleasure to hear their rendering of "The Hammer", something that will always be remembered by Londoners.