

Multi-Media Ltd Supplement



Pan is Beautiful V Memories of the first World Steelband Festival

TRY this experiment. Put on any of these *Pan is Beautiful* Valbums. Turn off the lights. Relax, and let your imagination run. Soon you will believe you are in the the Jéan Pierre Complex hearing the best steelbands in the world LIVE! That's how good this *Pan is Beautiful V* recording is! It is easy to be impressed by

the music. After all the performers are first-class steelbandmen, the *Pan is Beautiful* festivals have become the premier showcase of both instrument and musician and the music played is among the greatest in the world.

But this recording of the Festival is impressive in a different way. It is not easy to record

steelbands. Indeed, although steelbands have been recorded for some time, these recordings have been in the main unsatisfactory, the recording technology of the past never being aimed, in the past, for recording large percussion instruments that supplied melodies as well as rhythms.

That is why you will find in this magazine that we have been at pains to talk not only about the steelbandmen and their music but about the methods used to make this recording the magnificent audio presentation that it is. Some of that information may appeal only to audio buffs but even the novice, we believe,

should derive some satisfaction from an understanding of how OUR instruments are recorded for posterity. The point is we were not able to pick up this knowledge from a book on a shelf but had to devise a method by juggling the technology available. *Pan is Beautiful* was an achievement. So, too, has been the recording of it.