

News

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'Dimes' invents duo pan

DENZIL "DIMES" FERNANDEZ, the man who in 1982 invented the bore pan has recently created another adaptation of the instrument.

The musician has invented what he calls the duo pan, which he says is really three pans in one. The new instrument features two tenor bore pans fused together so that the pannists face each other while playing.

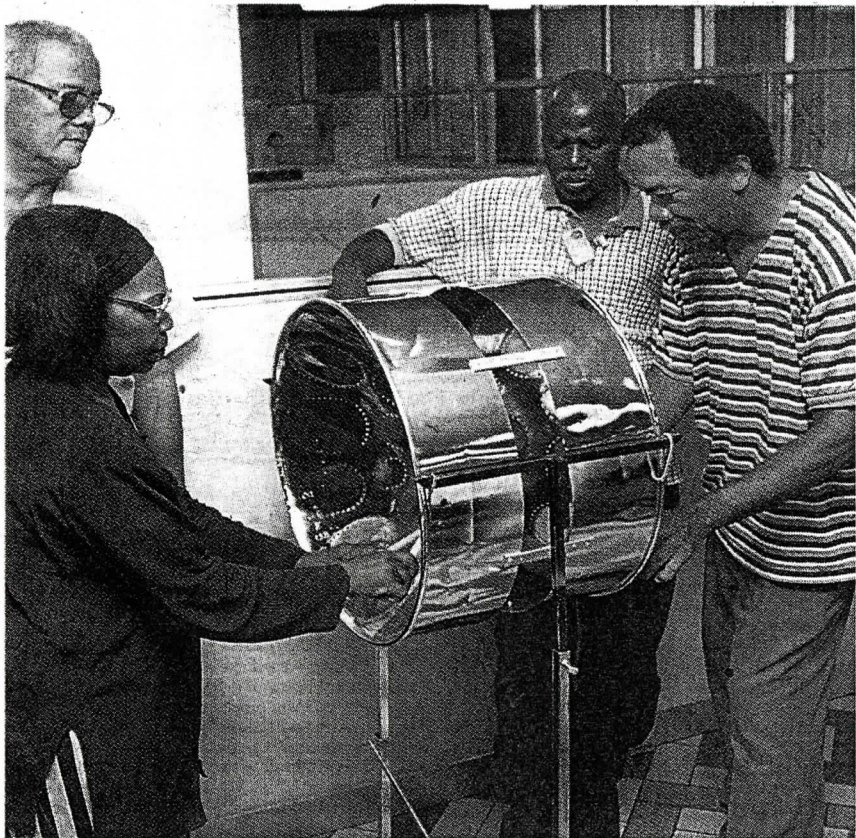
Fernandez said he created the pan in an effort to extend the range of the single instrument. He added that he plays classical guitar and was always impressed with its wide range, which he said can run from deep bass to tenor.

"I was looking for a different timbre. I wanted to have as wide a range as I could on one single instrument. It took me about three months to create this prototype," Fernandez said.

He said there are a number of features in the duo pan that will attract pannists.

"The duo pan is two single pans merged to form a single resonant system, of which either unit can be played simultaneously or one at a time in succession. It facilitates easy amplification. A wider tonal range. Each unit can be tuned with its own tone colour and the merged pans generate a unique timbre. The duo pan can be used to reduce the size of ensembles," Fernandez said.

Musicologist Merle Albino de Coteau, who examined the pan and played Frank Sinatra's "My Way" on it along with Fernandez was impressed by the instrument. "I am impressed with the range of the pan. To me it's like having three pans in one, that makes it very cost



DOUBLE PLAY: MERLE Albino de Coteau, left, and Denzil "Dimes" Fernandez play the duo pan invented by Fernandez. Looking on are (left) owner of Music and Equipment music store Eric Lewah and pan tuner Winston Pascallz.

Photo by ANDRE ALEXANDER

effective," de Coteau said.

Fernandez also invented a bass pan he calls the U-Bass, which he said is currently under research. He credited the owner of Music and Equipment music store Eric Lewah and M&M Insurance Limited with having funded his research on pans over the years.

The pan maker who lives in Baltimore, USA makes his living making pans for steel orches-

tras in Europe, Holland, Japan and the United States. He made his first pan when he was 16-years-old.

"I was always curious about how the instrument was made and so in 1960 I bought a Castrol Drum for two cents and made a spiderweb pan. I never tuned it, but shortly after I made another spiderweb pan and tuned that one," Fernandez said.