

Paradoes First In Steelband Preliminary

Glamour Boys Beaten

by Gerry Harewood

THE popular Woodbrook "glamour boys" of the steel pans — Shell Invaders— were beaten into second place by the Gay Desperadoes of Laventille, at the fifth preliminary of the Steelband Section of this year's Music Festival, at Queen's Hall on Sunday night.

The tunes, giving Desperadoes leading points by the judges over the other three competitors, were "Stars fell over Alabama" and the Waltz Song from Verdi's "La Traviata."

Invaders, under Ellie Manette, took the stage first. Their opening selection was excerpts from "Romance", which they played in bolero tempo. Their second number was a delightful and unique arrangement of "Jealousy".

Silver Harps played "Lieberfruede" and the current hit parader, "Moon River". Midlanders, last of the competing quartet, went strictly classical with the Swan Lake Ballet from Tchaikovsky and Minuet in D from Divertimento (No. 17) by Mozart.

In the solo section, there were four contestants. Jules Cazabon, the local Dave Brubeck of the pans, took the

first prize with his interpretations of "Stella By Starlight" and the Test Piece, arranged by Miss Umilta McShine.

Runner-up was Leroy Williams, of Serenaders, who, in addition to the Test Piece, played Serenata. The other soloists were Gerald Forsythe of Invaders, who played the Test Piece and "Violetta" and Frank DeGourville of Silver Harps, with "Blue Maribeam" and the Test Tune.

Judges for the preliminary were Fr. Cochrane, Miss Umilta McShine and Miss Jocelyn Pierre.

The standard of music set by the bands who have so far taken part in the preliminaries organised by the

Steel Orchestras Association, has been fairly high. They have provided evenings of musical fare which unfortunately to date, have not been as well patronised as they might be.

• However, the quality of the entertainment notwithstanding, the Association has two snags to overcome. The first is unpunctuality. The shows have all been rather started way past the scheduled time, sometimes to the impatience of judges and audience alike.

The second problem is that of getting the bands on and off the stage in quick time. While an appeal has been made to the public for suggestions to speed up this exercise, it should be a matter for the bands themselves and the Association to put their heads together and work this out without too much difficulty.