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THE YOUNG members of the Success Stars Pan Sounds is the centre of attraction to this large audience at one of their performances in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Success begets Success

By SEAN NERO

JOINT Junior Steelband Music Festival winner, Success Stars Pan Sounds, won new friends at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland and, according to their musical director, Ben Jackson, it was well deserved.

The pan minors who returned home last Sunday from their ten-day jaunt of Scotland, served up a variety of musical selections that reportedly left Scots jumping.

The rewards of this prize trip (a credit to the school steelband for their achievement at the biannual competition) ironically overshadowed numerous hiccups which threatened to hinder their departure.

The 24-member band was accompanied by four teachers of the school, along with Cary Codrington (arranger), Egar Meyers (tuner) and musical director, Ben Jackson.

The group's engagements included a concert for children in one of the finest acoustic music halls in Scotland — The Music Hall.

The orchestra performed the themes from the movies *Star Wars* and *Sesame*

Street as part of its extensive repertoire to entertain the kids who were accompanied by their parents.

Success Stars was joined on stage by the Viotta Youth Symphony Orchestra, a 75-member aggregation from the Hague in the Netherlands, whose members were strategically positioned among the audience to accompany the students of the Pan Sounds on stage for the show's finale.

The Stars also performed Rossini's "William Tell Overture," conducted by both Ben Jackson and Wim Bredenhorst (the founder and conductor of The Viotta Symphony Orchestra).

Bredenhorst lectures in music theory, arranging, and conducting at the music academies of the Hague and Utrecht in Holland.

The members of Success Stars were heartily welcomed by some 60 Trinidadian families residing in Aberdeen, many of whom originally lived in San Fernando. At another performance the band had the opportunity to share the stage with another group, The Awakening Theatre Dance Company from the USA.

History was made in the Scottish city of Aberdeen at its annual "Tap and Dance Festival" at Her Majesty's Theatre, built in 1906. It was learnt that in the 23 years of the festival it was the first time the show ever sold out — thanks to the Success Stars Pan Sounds, with its repertoire of calypso, jazz and pop hits that left the audience spellbound.

Tarik Winston, star of the internationally renowned production "River Dance" who also appeared in Broadway musicals "Porgy & Bess" and the Tony award winning "Black & Blue," led the American Dance Theatre's second segment with a number of modern contemporary and tap pieces.

Following this act were the young pannists of the Success Stars Pan Sounds, who in no way fell short of their offering with the usual conducting antics of Ben Jackson to Lord Kitchener's Pan Night and Day. This piece was arranged by Cary Codrington. During the trip, Jackson said, nine members excelled in a performance at a wine and cheese evening hosted by the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen in the historic Trinity Halls.