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Taspo members to be celebrated in Britain

By TREVOR BURNETT

IMPRESSARIO Sonny Blacks continues his lavish promotion of Trinidad and Tobago's cultural arts in Britain this summer.

Starting with the steelbands, Blacks will pay respects to the members of the Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (Taspo) on the band's 50th anniversary in Britain from July 26-29.

Invitations have been extended to all the surviving members of Taspo: Ellie Mannette, Sterling Betancourt, Anthony Williams, Andrew de la Bastide and Belgrave Bonaparte.

On Thursday, July 26, a special function will be staged at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London from 6.30-8 p.m.

The action shifts to the

opening night of London Calypso Tent, managed by Ashton "Tiger" Moore on Friday, July 27. Details of steelband involvement are still to be finalised.

Then, steelband people are invited to an Open Day on Saturday, July 28, from 8 p.m.-midnight at the Ebony Panyard.

In saying thanks to the efforts of Taspo and Britain's steelband fanatics, a church service will

be held at St Michael's Church in Wembley on Sunday, July 29.

Mass will be said by Fr John Metevier from 3-4 p.m. and a thanksgiving reception follows.

The Commonwealth Arts and Cultural Foundation, which is headed by Blacks, will have Trinidad-born Lady Hollick and Junior Minister of Culture Winston "Gypsy" Peters

present the awards to the members of Taspo.

During October, Blacks shifts his attention to calypso in respect of "Sankofa", The Black History Month.

From October 12-21, with two shows planned for London and three shows in Manchester, Blacks will highlight Shadow, Rose and Baron in calypso show and dance concerts.



ELLIE MANNETTE