

Hot Pans at High Mass in Swedish church

Story and photo by
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FOR THE first time in Sweden a steelband has played at the celebration of High Mass. The occasion was the installation mass for a new female vicar at Boo Lutheran Church in Stockholm on Sunday, September 22.

The Swedish Hot Pans steelband accompanied the church choir in the Sanctus part of the mass, which was set in Brazilian samba tempo. It also accompanied the hymn-singing of the congregation.

But most notable was that the band also played Trinidadian soca. For the Introit, the beginning of the mass, "Party Now Start," by Crazy, was

played. And at the conclusion, "Boogsie" Sharpe's and Denyse Plummer's "Woman is Boss" was played in order to celebrate the appointment of a woman as the manager of the parish.

The event was covered by the biggest daily paper in Sweden, the *Dagens Nyheter*. The sound of the steelbands made quite an impression on the many members of the clergy and the congregation attending the mass. Most of those attending had never heard a steelband before.

Hot Pans steelband started in 1985. It has 15 members, six of whom are women. The mentor of the band is famous Trinidad pan-

nist Rudy Smith, now a resident in Copenhagen, Denmark. Hot Pans were heard and seen on television in Trinidad and Tobago in 1992 on the occasion of the Nobel Prize gala when Derek Walcott received the prestigious prize for literature for his work, *Omeros*.



SWEDISH Hot Pans steelband play at Boo Lutheran Church in Stockholm