

Steelband Week comes on strong

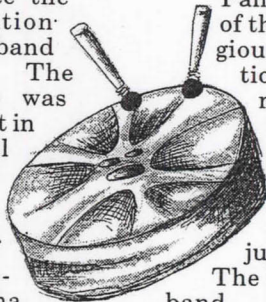
STEELBAND Week is being celebrated throughout the country to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the declaration of the steelpan as the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. The celebrations started on Sunday at the St Paul Street Sporting Complex in East Port-of-Spain with an inter-faith service attended by a wide cross section of the community, headed by Prime Minister Basdeo Panday.

It was by far the

The Beat Goes On

by UPTempo

best of the services held since the inauguration of Steelband Week. The ambiance was just perfect in the well decorated hall as representatives of the Muslim, Orisha and Baha'i faiths delivered their eulogies together with



Archbishop Anthony Pantin, the head of the Inter Religious Organisation and chairman of the morning's proceedings. The acoustics in the hall were just beautiful.

The Flabej steelband ensemble accompanied soprano Narriman Hosein and her powerful voice blended with the pans to give off a heavenly sound. Carib Tokyo steelband offered two well played selections and young Dana Andrews rounded off the entertainment aspect with a scintillating rendition of Jesu Joy of All Mankind. After the ceremony, the congregation proceeded to the back of the centre where the foundation

stone was blessed.

This stone was laid four years ago to commemorate the spot where the first meeting of the steel band association was held. Many gala functions are planned for the week. Today, there will be a youth rally which begins at City Hall, Knox Street and ends with a concert on the Brian Lara Promenade. There will be a big Independence Day parade along Frederick Street tomorrow to climax proceedings.

Labour Day celebrations on Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, signals the end of summer and brings back an influx of local musicians and artistes who will immediately begin preparing for the '97 Carnival celebrations. The heat will start from next month with the various band-launchings, so stay tuned for the jamming.