

Sunday Guardian

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Casablanca to perform in St. Peter's Basilica

ISCOTT Casablanca Steel Orchestra will play inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Easter Monday next year. It is only the second orchestra to perform there and the first steel orchestra.

The first orchestra to perform in the Basilica was the Vienna Philharmonic at the Feast of St. Peter's and Paul on June 29 last year. Casablanca's participation in the Easter Monday (March 31) Mass has been described as a liturgical celebration and not a concert.

The sounds of this country will blend with those of the Sistine Chapel Choir and the Vatican Chapel Choir at 10 a.m. on this day which celebrates the resurrection of Christ. Assisting at this High Mass, which unfortunately will not be attended by His Holiness the Pope, will be acolytes of the Sacred Heart parish in Port-of-Spain.

However, Pope John Paul II will be treated to the sounds of the steelband on Wednesday, April 1, at a general audience when Casablanca will play "Rejoice Mother Poland", a tune dedicated to the Holy Father himself, and the classic "Portrait of Trinidad".

Coordinator Courtney Rodney said the effort is a combination of

tourist promotion cultural tour, with religious overtones.

Three weeks before Casablanca arrives in Italy a film on the culture and music of Trinidad and Tobago "will be shown there so that people will know what to expect," said Rodney.

LONDON

After its Vatican performance, Casablanca will be performing in the cultural centre of Italy, the legendary city of Florence.

However, before its historic performance at Vatican's City's most famous cathedral, the steelbands will perform with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in London on March 7.

Casablanca's musical director, Anthony Prospect, is expected to travel to London before the joint concert to work out the musical scores with the Philharmonic's musical director.

After the performance in Italy, Casablanca will return to London to participate in Caribbean Focus which begins in April.
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