

Phase II shares licks



Wayne Bowman

PHASE II Pan Groove gave a sound licking to all opponents at Sunday's semi-final round of competition in the Large Band category of the 2007 National Panorama Championships at the Queen's Park Savannah early yesterday morning.

Playing "Sharing Licks" composed and arranged by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, Phase II scored 280 points to lead the way into the finals, which is set for Carnival Saturday, February 17, at Skinner Park, San Fernando. Kicking off its performance at 2.25 a.m., Phase II sent the crowd wild from the opening bars of the arrangement as

Sharpe conducted his pannists while he danced before them, jubilantly waving his baton. Also on the stage dancing and jumping around was calypsonian Crazy who performed vocals on the recording of the song. By the time Phase II ended its presentation at 2.33 a.m., the crowd, although whittled down by then but still significantly large, was in an uproar and cheering the defending champions as the band exited the stage.

Also delivering a mesmerising performance was Trinidad All Stars performing DeFosto's "Pan Lamentation" arranged by Leon "Smooth" Edwards. All Stars scored 278.5 points to place second and signal to Phase II that achiev-



Phase II Pan Groove's seven-bass player enjoys his music at the 2007 Panorama semi-finals at the Queen's Park Savannah on Monday morning.

ing the hat trick they are going for will not be an easy task. All Stars did not play the tune at full pace and, based upon what had been heard in the panyard as compared to what was delivered at the savannah, Edwards held back on certain elements of the arrangement possibly with the intention of dropping a bomb come Carnival Saturday.

Placing third with a score of 272 points for its rendition of "We Jamming Again" composed and arranged by Pelham Goddard was the Sagcor Exodus Steel Orchestra, whose members were

being drilled intensely up to minutes before taking the stage and delivering a very sedate performance that nevertheless received rapturous applause from the crowd.

Barely making it through to the finals was 10-time champs Witco Desperadoes with its performance of "Band From Space," an Amrit Samaroo composition arranged for the band by Robbie Greenidge, Curtis Edwards and Andre Robley. Although they seemed to please the audience as much as the top three bands did, Despers managed to earn a score of just 258 points from the judges to place eighth in the standings and squeeze through to the finals. BP Renegades placed seventh with a score of 263.5 also playing "Band From Space" arranged by Jit Samaroo. The other bands making through to the finals are Tropical Angel Harps, Caribbean Airline Invaders and PCS Starlift. No bands from either Tobago or San Fernando made the cut, but after supporters of TCL Group Skiffle Bunch and NLBC Fonclaire expressed dissatisfaction over the exclusion of these bands Pan Trinbago President, Patrick Arnold said his executive will look into the possibility of taking ten bands to the final.

Arnold said yesterday that he was, for the most part, pleased with

Sunday's semi-final and considered it a success in spite of the challenges, among which was the lack of seating accommodation on the northern side of the stage where Arnold said he had requested that bleachers be placed.

Also the supporters of the various bands who assisted the pannists in pushing their pan racks onto the stage found themselves being ordered to stand behind barriers placed roughly 30 feet away from where the steel orchestras were playing on stage and although the supporters were very orderly several were roughed up and cursed at by police officers. Many people, including patrons who had paid to enter the venue, opted to go out on the road to listen to the bands play as they made their way towards and away from the staging area, saying that this was the real Panorama.

As for the area referred to as the Northern Greens, most of the patrons there commented that they liked the idea of a picnic atmosphere and appreciated the wide open space, although the price of \$150 per person for a group tent was too steep, especially when one considered that the sound system directed to the Northern Greens was of a very poor quality preventing patrons from really enjoying the music.

THE results by bands, selection, arranger and score.

SMALL BANDS CATEGORY

1. Merrytones, Can't Get Enough, Selon Gomez, 277
2. Pan Elders, Pan Lamentation, Richard Alvin Gittens, 273
3. Tamana Pioneers, Rebecca, Paul Campbell, 263
4. Petrolin Siparia Deltones, What I Want, Carlton Alexander, 259
5. Crescendoes Musical, Sharing Licks, Curtis Edwards, 256
6. Tunapuna All Stars, Lying Excuses, Mark Hosten, 253
7. Southern Marines Steelband Foundation, Oh Trinidad, Malomo Joseph, 253
8. Casablanca, Doh Back Back, Martin Cain/Darryn Alexander, 253
9. St. James North Stars, Unknown Band, Ricardo Dennis, 252
10. Fascinators Pan Symphony, The Sound of Pan, Lennox Jordan, 250
11. Anna Golden Symphony, Sharing Licks, Terrence "BJ" Marcelle, 250
12. Panatics, Pan Woman, Reynold Pro' Higgins, 249
13. Pandemonium, Can't Get Enough, Victor Antoine, 245
14. Simple Song, Darling, Rogerlan Charles, 235
15. Tipica, Bradley, Harold Headley, 219

MEDIUM BANDS CATEGORY

1. Carib Dbieleland, Pan Lamentation, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, 274
2. Courts Sound Specialists, Johnny, Ken "Professor" Philmore, 273
3. Excelent Stores Silver Stars, Soca Is It, Edwin Pouchet, 272
4. Katzenjammers, Pan Lamentation, Sydney Joseph, 269
5. Clico Siorzita, Calypso Music, Yohan Popwell, 268
6. Harmonites, Sylvie Breakaway, Earl La Pierre, 264
7. Lee Chong's Pan Glow, Band From Space, Amrit Samaroo, 263

8. Arima Angel Harps, I Dare You, Godwin Bowen, 255
9. Steel Explosion, Pan Lamentation, Brian "Bear" Griffith, 252
10. Tokyo, Carnival Integration, Keith Salseido, 248
11. Parry's Pan School, Clive the Greatest, Selwyn "Parry" Paul, 247
12. Melodians, Panama, Terrence "BJ" Marcelle, 247
13. Potential Symphony, Sharing Licks, Carlton Harewood/ Anselm Campbell, 244
14. T&TEC Power Stars, Pan Lamentation, Renrick Lewis, 240

LARGE BANDS CATEGORY

1. Phase II Pan Groove, Sharing Licks, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, 280
2. NSM Trinidad All Stars, Pan Lamentation, Leon "Smooth" Edwards, 278.5
3. Sagcor Exodus, We Jammin Again, Pelham Goddard, 272
4. Tropical Angel Harps, Pan Lamentation, Clarence Morris, 270.5
5. Caribbean Airlines Invaders, Pan Lamentation, Ardin Herbert, 265.5
6. PCS Starlift, We Just Can't Go On Like This, Ray Holman, 265
7. bp Renegades, Band From Space, Dr. Jit Samaroo, 263.5
8. Witco Desperadoes, Band From Space, Robert Greenidge, Andre Robley, Curtis Edwards, 258
9. TCL Group Skiffle Bunch, Sharing Licks, Ken "Professor" Philmore, 252
10. Soko Pan Knights, Can't Get Enough, Dwayne Stewart, 250.5
11. NLBC Fonclaire, Pan Lamentation, Darren Sheppard, 248.5
12. RBTT Redemption Sound Setters, Pan Lamentation, Winston Gordon, 244.5
13. Mobile Boy's Soca, Is It, Roger Sardinia, 233.5
14. ECU Pambri, Band From Space, Brian Villatina, 233.5
15. Petrolin Hatters, Pan Music Sweet, Dr. Jeannine "J9" Perry, 225
16. Birdsong, Sharing Licks, Eddie Quarless, 217.5