

ML1040

# National Junior Steelband Music Festival

## Ifill: Use natural gas revenues for school music development



By SEAN NERO

**DWAYNE IFILL, co-ordinator of the National Junior Steelband Music Festival 2001 on Monday called on the nation's youth to lobby the Ministry of Education to have revenues from natural gas used to construct soundproof music rooms in all schools.**

He was delivering the feature address to usher in the start of competition among some of the country's most versatile junior pannists at the Grand Stand Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain.

"I am certain that this would not exceed the expenditure to that of our International Airport,"

he said, adding "some of the advantages of being musically literate are marketability in areas such as arranging and pan tutoring and it decreases the time spent learning a tune."

The Festival, produced by Pan Trinidad, is managed by its Youth Arm headed by education officer on its central executive Winston Thomas. "Youth In Excellence," has been chosen as this year's theme.

"This excellence," said Ifill "is shown in academics, sports and the work place. With respect to the pan, we have seen the youths of our nation excelling in the national instrument without being musically literate. We have seen this at various National Panorama competitions, the World Steelband Music Festival 2000, Twelve and Under, Scouting For Talent and Mastana Bahar.

"It has been shown that many youths who participate in playing the national instrument also do well in examinations."

In addition to this academic achievement, he stated, youths also learn about teamwork, co-operation, tolerance, sacrifice and time management.

He pointed to the introduction of pan on the school curriculum in countries such as the United States, England and places in Europe and is of the view that a format locally would heighten this excellence further.

"The evidence is now clear that government and other relevant authorities must give young people the authority to manage all events relating to youths," he remarked.

The Festival, in honour of Liam Teague, features categories such as orchestra, ensemble, quartet, duet and soloist. The small but appreciative audience bore witness to performance from soloists, duets and quartets, delivering a high standard of performances. The Festival runs through December 6 for which schools and non-schools are eligible.

MIA GORMANDY, representing Blue Diamond Juniors delivers her interpretation of "Night In Tunisia" during the soloists segment of Pan Trinidad's Junior Steelband Music Festival.  
PHOTO BY SEAN NERO