

QUADROPHONIC

...high tenor, guitar pan and bass all rolled into one



LAST year's Panorama champions, the West Indian Tobacco Gay Desperadoes will be unwrapping the latest development in the steelband world at today's Panorama.

Called the "Quadrophonic Pan" it was invented by the band's leader, Mr. Rudolph Charles and manufactured by acc-tuners, Bertie Marshall and Lincoln Noel.

It is in fact a set of four pans that have been so tuned as to allow the player to get the "widest range of notes ever" ranging from middle-bass to high treble.

This means, for example, that the pan is at one and the same time a "high tenor" [or, more accurately, a "soprano pan,"] a guitar pan and a "bass."

Declaring it "the greatest invention since the Bertone and the double-tenor, in that order," Mr. Marshall explained that the pan could be used as the arrangement demanded.

"If, for example, you want to supplement your conventional tenor section, the player simply plays the "tenor notes," if it is additional depth you require, he simply plays the bass section of the pan," he said.

He hastened to add, however, that the "Quadrophonic Pan" is a complete instrument in itself capable of playing any tune.



THE "Quadrophonic Pan" here demonstrated by top Desperadoes player, Eugene McLean. Eugene who is one of the few men able to play the 12-bass uses six sticks (a pair of tenor, guitar and bass sticks) to demonstrate pictorially the range of the pan. In real life, however, he will, of course, only use one pair at a time.

"Obviously," he added, "the "Quadrophonic Pan" cannot have all the notes of a soprano pan and all the notes of a pair of guitars and all the notes of the bass but the notes that are absent are only the very "highs" and the very "lows" and within that small limitation, the pan can play anything."

If, as is likely, the pan is asked to play each of these different roles in a particular tune it will require the player to use different sticks — "tenor" sticks for the tenor notes, bass sticks for "bass" notes and so on.

But, Mr. Marshall pointed out that the procedure for this has already been set — a vibraphonist, for example, uses a wide range of "sticks" to achieve different effects depending on the mood of the piece being played.

The "Quadrophonic Pan" has been a year in the making, and its invention marks the coming together of Mr. Charles, who created the "rocket-pans," so familiar in Desperadoes, and Bertie Marshall whose invention of the double-tenor covered stands, amplified steelpans and the "Bertone" resulted in his being appointed government's Steelband Research Officer.

Yesterday, Mr. Charles was brimming with confidence, not so much because of his "Quadrophonic" but because, like last year, the team also includes arranger Clive Bradley, whose arrangement of Lord Kitchener's "Hosely Crawford, Rudolph swears, "is going to lick the pan lick off them"