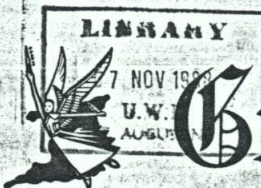


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# Desperadoes still on top of the world

By VALENTINO SINGH

WITCO DESPERADOES retained their status as the world's top music festival band when they took first place in the World Steelband Music Festival/Pan is Beautiful V competition which ended early yesterday morning at the Jean Pierre Complex.

The Laventille band totalled 828 points, holding off a spirited challenge from Amoco Renegades who placed second with 825 points.

Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars with 822 points placed third, with the fourth placed band, Valley Harps some 27 points away.

TCL Skiffle Bunch won the old time bands category with 524 points while Arddin Herbert (270 points) edged out Sean Thomas (269 points) to capture the soloist category.

An almost packed complex saw Desperadoes earning the top mark of 277 points on the test piece *Pan Waves*. This was a repeat of their

achievement at the 1986 festival when they also won the prize in this category. Their tune of choice, Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave* earned 274 points while Clive Bradley's arrangement of *Party Tonight* secured 277 points in the calypso category.

Renegades, who played Gustav Holst's *Mars, The Bringer Of War*, won the top prize in the tune of choice category, scoring 280 points. This was the highest individual mark of the night. They scored 277 points with Kitchener's *Pan in A Minor* in the calypso category but were let down by the test piece which earned them 268 points.

## Tune Of Choice

Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars, looking to go one better than last festival when they placed second, excited the crowd when they took the stage. However, the judges awarded them 269 points for the test piece while their tune of choice, Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien* scored 278 points and their calypso, *Curry Tabanca*, 275 points. The band also lost their titles in the calypso and tune of choice categories which they won at the 1986 festival.

Valley Harps earned 795 points, with 251 points for the test piece, 276 points for their tune of choice, Friedman's *Slavonic Rhapsody* and 268 points for Sparrow's *One Day*.

Limping in fifth were early pace-setters, Tropical Angel Harps. The pride of central failed to match their performances in the preliminaries and semi-finals and scored a disap-

pointing 791 points, including a modest 248 points for their calypso, *This Feeling Nice*. Their test piece secured 270 points and their tune of choice, Rimsky Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, 273 points.

## Conventional Bands

Phase Two Pan Groove dominated in the calypso category. The tune which won them the national Panorama title earlier this year, *Woman is Boss*, was again in winner's row, taking the top prize with 279 points. But the band's total of 790 points, which included 248 for their tune of choice, Gershwin's *Rhapsody In Blue* and 263 for the test piece, could only win them sixth place.

Solo Harmonites, who played first in the conventional bands category, scored 769 points in placing seventh while Exodus finished eight after failing to complete the test piece.

Harmonites played Wagner's *Rienzi Overture* which earned 244 points and *Play One 269*, while Exodus collected 255 points for their calypso effort, *Pan Woman*, and 239 for their tune of choice, *Capriccio Italien*. They were not judged in the test piece category.

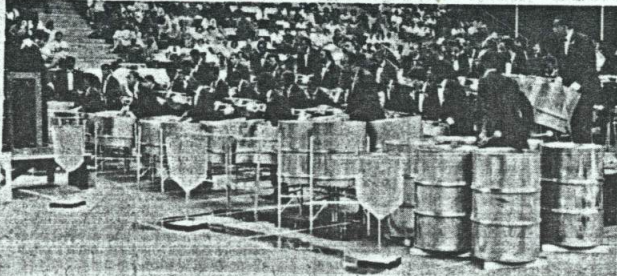
Winners in the old time bands category, TCL Skiffle Bunch, played a Boogie Sharpe composition, *The Three Seasons*, along with the test piece, Ovid Alexis' *Before These Days*, while Herbert's winning tune was his own composition, *The Seagull*, which was arranged by Dawn Batson.



TRINIDAD-BORN Guinea-based political activist Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael), right, congratulates Arddin Herbert, the top pan soloist as he presents him with his trophy. Looking on at left is Earl Caruth, the local adjudicator in the festival, and composer of the test piece — *Pan Waves* — for the conventional steelbands. Photos by WILSON LEE YOUNG.



CHAMPIONS in the old time bands category, TCL Skiffle Bunch, as they performed their test piece, *Before These Days*, at the 1988 World Steelband festival finals. Conductor is Victor Prescod.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Pat Bishop, commands the attention of members of the champion music festival band, Witco Desperadoes at Saturday night's pan festival finals which ended early yesterday morning at the Jean Pierre Complex. Photo by WILSON LEE YOUNG.