

ML 1040

Out of Flamingoes — an Exodus



EXODUS ironmen led by 'Precker' chopping, cutting, strumming, folaying and rattling, keeping the tempo up at a rehearsal for Panorama

IN 1981, a group of players from the Flamingoes Steel Orchestra left that band and became the nucleus of a new group aptly called Exodus.

Today, that same group, dressed always in black and white, has managed to charm the hearts of oh so many steelband aficionados not only through their music but a discipline which is the envy of many other bands.

Exodus has made a point of keeping some of the most musical people at the helm of the band, working with both Desmond Waithe and Pelham Goddard, the band has managed to keep a tight reign on its music, landing always in the top rungs, when the final ladder is called at the end of any competition.

Originally led by Amin Mohammed and now with his younger brother Ainsworth at the helm, Exodus, the pride of Tunapuna, manages to get attention and respect in any pan arena, largely for the consistency and



DESMOND WAITHE

presence of the band.

Ainsworth says that the band enters any competition for which it is eligible and if for nothing else, for the experience of being competition ready — as state that demands top quality always.

The band has had a series of tours, including the fulfilling of engagements Belize last year for that country's Independence celebrations. That tour was made as a result of an invitation from the Governor of that country.

For Panorama Exodus will be playing Pelham Goddard's composition and arrangement of "Case of the Disappearing Panyard."

Goddard's calypso was sung by David Rudder, a combination which has brought them Panorama victory with "Savannah Party" in

1992.

Exodus went on to win Point Fortin Panorama in 1992, 1993 and 1995, placing second in 1994.

On seven occasions they have emerged as East Panorama Champions a feat musical director Desmond Waithe is confident of repeating this year.

Exodus versatility is to be noted, having placed second in the 1994 Steelband Festival and the inaugural Pan Chutney competition in Arima in 1995.

For this year's Panorama, captain Andy Husbands has a cast of over 150 players to choose from which must be trimmed down to 120.

Exodus noted that their surplus of players came through their investment in the youths.

Their junior band performed with great success in the 1995 Schools Steelband Festival which is considered as the band's nursery.

Photo and Story: **TREVOR BURNETT**

The engine room

MUCH has been written about the force that comes from the rhythm section of a steelband. Some of the real heavies in the band are the guys who are able to keep up their timing against overwhelming odds.

There was a time when this was even more important than it is today. When men would line the side of the band in order to use that same iron to drown out the rhythm of the opposing band and at once keep their teams in sync, but now, with bands hardly ever having to cross each other on the parade routes, the iron is little else by a supply of rhythm.

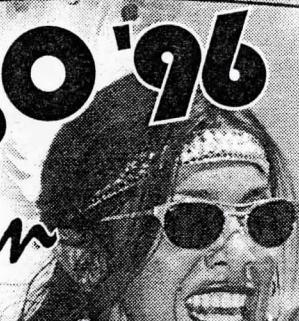
Lord Shorty (now Ras Shorty I) immortalised one of the iron players from Vat 19 Fonclaire, Cory; with the words: "Talk about Iron Man, Cory Sweeter than honey, ting-a-ling, tink-a-ling, Cory would do he ting".

The iron has been supplemented by drum machines (in light recordings) and the kit drums for fother performances, but has never been replaced for that magic combination of low and high noises that come from it.

There are various methods of playing the iron in order that the various points can come together to produce the noise that drives the steelband.

—Trevor Burnett

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