

AT ANY party, dance or concert, it has become an accepted fact that things go better with the Coca-Cola Silver Stars Steel Orchestra.

The exclusiveness of their musical stylings and the brightness of their repertoire have taken the "Newtown boys" a long way to being one of the top steelbands of the country since their inception some 19 years ago.

They were a group of college students in search of a favourite past time.

With the emergence of the Silver Stars in 1950, the status of the steelbandsman was lifted. He could now be a serious minded young man attending the top college, escaping in his spare time to beat it out from a rude tent in Newtown.

### The moulding

Such was the pace set by the Silver stars almost two decades ago that the small group of 15 young men, under St. Mary's Old Boy, Ramon Young, made their presence and their music felt at parties and small dances around the city.

But the moulding of a big band took the originators two years, and the Silver Stars really moved into the thick of local steelband entertainment in 1952, hitting the road for Carnival. The Silver Stars Steel Orchestra was now on its way with membership increasing at the beat of every tune.

At the same time, too, the more scholarly of the group began moving out to give more attention to their vocational pursuits. So today, among the many young men with top jobs in the country are ex-members of the Silver Stars.

But from the beginning of it all, the reserved Junior Pouchet was there, and featuring prominently in the success story of the band is the fact that today's

# SILVER STARS HAVE SET A HOT PACE



polished and sophisticated sound of the steel orchestra seem to demand a type of expertise which only people like Pouchet — leader and arranger of the Silver Stars for close to 15 years possesses.

Junior reads little music but his arrangements are full of it.

He has been able to steer the band to success with six long playing records and quite a number of 45's.

Junior was commissioned for a short while to train the Esso Steelband in Paramaribo and he was appointed arranger for the performance of the national steelband for three weeks at a convention of Moral Re-Armament in Michigan, United States of America and a further tour by the steelband ambassadors across 13 States of the American Continent shortly afterwards.

### Very popular

Junior Pouchet has been away from Trinidad during the past few months lending his talent from off the stage of the famous '40 Thieves' Club in Bermuda together with three members of his band to complement a very popular attraction at the nightspot.

Because of his advice, no matter where he is, and because of the faith of the members to the band, the Coca Cola Silver Stars keep shining both in appearance and musical presentations.

Silver Stars came under sponsorship of the Soft Drinks Division of Can-

ning's Industries Limited in January 1966 and were given the name Coca Cola Silver Stars.

Junior has said that there has always been cordial relationship between the band and the sponsors and they are very happy to have such association.

The band, with a regular playing side of 28 which swells into 90 strong at Carnival time, has made a

tour of the Caribbean and was the first steelband to play on the Antilles. They are looking forward to a two-day tour of Aruba and Puerto Rico within the next few weeks.

### Only twice

Music has not been the only achievement of the Coca Cola Silver Stars. After all, said Junior, steel-

band is part of carnival and there is a mas' committee within the band.

This committee won the 'Band of the Year' title in 1963 with the stunning presentation of Gulliver's Travels and was second the following year with Seven Faces of Conquest. This year, they will present American Indians.

Only twice did Silver Stars not place in the Panorama finals.

They were champion steelband in north Trinidad in 1968.

Silver Stars are the most popular steel dance band in Trinidad.

In 1966, they were commended for best tonal arrangements.

The band has a unique sound of its own according to Professor John Russell, adjudicator at the 1966 steelband music festival.



GEORGE GODDARD, the man behind Trinidad's steelband movement, looks at the many trophies that are presented annually at the steelband festivals.