

# Panmen must be musically literate

Jerry Jemmott, musician, flautist and conductor of Catelli All Stars, says:

I do not know much about where it's going, but I can tell you where it ought to go, the direction it should take.

One of the things steelbands must address themselves to is leadership. That leadership must be of a standard keeping pace with the kind of discipline and performing ability shown by the pannists.

The quality of leadership must come on par with the panmen in terms of discipline and overall attitude towards pan. Anyone interested in pan would note that there is a definite lack of closeness between the leadership and the pannists.

There must be a link between pan, pannists, music and everything connected with the musical instruments for any positive future advancement.

I see, for instance, that there is this question of improved technique, but one of the main things I see for improvement of panmen is that they must attain the ability to read music.

At this time in the history of the steelband it is necessary for the pannist to be able to read music. He must be musically literate and be able to converse with music.

## Learning The Music

Too many people look on the panman as a robot. We have to get over that, and reach the stage where he is able to discuss the music after learning the music.

This is particularly important for the stage side. I feel that steelbandmen must get down to the task of becoming literate in music as completely divorced from playing from sounds and the position of notes on the steelpan.

Despite the fact that pannists have not taken formal training in music, their discipline in the field is second to none.

The ultimate destiny of the pan is that it has to join in a marriage with some of the instruments of the orchestra. It ought not to be kept isolated or separated from conventional orchestral instruments. There are musical pieces which would need some other instruments. Pan could then become part of the conventional orchestra.

I do not see pan staying on its own. Parts of the orchestra could also be used in the steelband and they would enhance it.

The ultimate is a marriage of some of these instruments into the steelband to impart that sort of colour which the steelband has not got.

The whole history of steelband is percussion. If you bring brass or woodwind or even strings, we would have a tremendous sound. However, the majority of instruments must be pan.

I think panmen must be taught the elements, theory and, eventually, reading of music.