



'Boogsie' Sharpe (left) and Earl Rodney

STEELPAN SHOOTOUT TONIGHT

LEN "Boogsie" Sharpe, regarded in local music as the 31-year-old "Mozart of pan", started composing at the age of nine while attending the then Woodbrook Presbyterian School. The "Pied Piper" of Phase II Pan Groove, he was a member of Starlift Steel Orchestra prior to becoming a pillar of strength with the Hamilton Street Band.

Although "Boogsie" may have dabbled in constructing his own material in primary school, and later at Progressive Educational Institute, it was in Starlift that he virtually sank his teeth into the meat of manufacturing his originals, "Malik" being the forerunner to gems like "I Like To Beat Pan", "Rags to Riches", "79 Is Mine", "I Music" and this year's Panorama Piece — "Musical Wine".

One can safely rate Sharpe as one of the most versatile pannist in the world. Fans and numerous astute pan aficionados will attest without hesitation that there's no pan instrument yet made that he cannot master, while others will readily testify that he can play anything on pan.

EARL RODNEY who will partner "Boogsie" tonight, was born in Point Fortin on December 20, 1938. He started playing pan at the tender age of seven years as a member of the Intruders Steel Orchestra, a band from E ypt Village, Point Fortin and previously known as Morning Stars.

When he was just 13 years old, Earl co-founded the Tropical Harmony Steel Orchestra, together with the late Allan Gervais.

In 1965, Earl partea& company with Tropical Harmony and moved to San Fernando to join the Dutchy Brothers Orchestra as the band's bassist/arranger.

Rodney was a member of Dutchy Brothers when he was invited to join Solo Harmonites Steel Orchestra as its arranger.