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TT culture steps into digital age with Digital Pan App

By JOAN RAMPERSAD

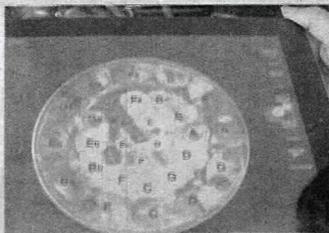
THOSE who attended the launch of the Digital Pan App on Thursday at Queen's Hall in St Ann's, felt Trinidad and Tobago culture is finally stepping into the digital age.

The Digital Pan Mobile App is the only steelpan app that is officially and exclusively endorsed by the national governing body for the steelpan, Pan Trinbago. It allows users to virtually play the steelpan on their mobile device and also to select from an array of options enhancing their musical experience.

Kristopher Maillard, Manger Mobile Apps, Digital Business said that this app, powered by Digital Business of

Curepe is designed for both the iPhone and iPad

and can be obtained for just \$1.99. He also spoke of the features of the innovative app. He said it allows the user instant access to the entire range of the steelpan family, including High C, Low C, double tenor, four,



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KRISTOPHER MAILLARD (from left), Manger Mobile Apps, Digital Business, has a word with Jennifer Jones, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism and Pan Trinbago president, Keith Diaz.

DEVENAND RAMSING, Manager, Sales and Business Development, Digital Business left, presents Jennifer Jones with an ipad for Arts and Multiculturalism Minister, Winston Peters.

App features full range of instruments

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Pan Trinbago President, Keith Diaz stated this country has entered the field of innovation and invention through the profound work done by the Digital Team. "Pan Trinbago is proud to be associated with this latest innovation and I take this opportunity to extend an extremely warm welcome to all present, and excitedly we look forward to a successful run," he said.

Melissa Gill of Gill's Pan Shop said her company recognised the instrument's versatility and has dedicated itself to broadening the communication pathways, for steelband music and to enriching the multi-dimensional development of the instrument.

"In fact, the Digital app has continued to fulfil the Gill vision for the pan's development started more than 15 years ago," she added, explaining that the Digital Pan app was recorded using sounds from the Gill Masters Pan series. "These instruments were



MAZZINI GILL, CEO of Gill's Pan Shop.

made from steel barrels, manufactured by Gill's subsidiary company, CG Packaging Systems Ltd. Each barrel meets strict specifications that have been scientifically proven to ensure accurate tuning, aesthetically pleasing chrome finish and the highest quality sound.

"Besides benefitting from the best quality of steel, the Digital Pan app has also benefited from the GillPans

outreach approach, to pan tuning. This has led to an international assembling of specially selected tuners, who are strong in various areas of the tuning process," said Gill.

She then expressed confidence that the app will add to the steelpan's attractiveness as an innovative music learning tool, and an instrument that is favoured for its greater accessibility to the new musician.

With pan playing now at the finger tips, musicologist Joslynne Carr-Sealy who was present at the launch challenged Digital Business representatives Devenand Ramsingh, Kristopher Maillard and Christian Lalla to place the pan notes in keyboard fashion.

They responded that they are indeed working on that.

A live demonstration of the playing of the pan app together with conventional pans had guests smiling in appreciation, after which presentations of pans and iPads were made to Minister Peters and Diaz.



KAILASH MAHARAJ left, receives a pan on behalf of Digital Business Ltd CEO Quinten Questel, from Kiril Roopchand of Gill's Pan Shop.