

# All-female band marks 20 years of playing pan

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IN the wake of a Carnival in which women emerged triumphant, the all-female NSA Vibrations Steel Orchestra plans to celebrate its 20th anniversary in style in June. Assisted through the years by Starlift, the band comprises members of the National Secretaries Association.

Vibrations was founded in 1979 by a group of professional secretaries who had the desire to learn the rudiments of pan-playing. Two decades later, the band has evolved into a compact, competent unit, catering to small, intimate gatherings and private social functions.

Vibrations' musical director Eastlyn Hinds has been with the ensemble from its inception and is primarily responsible for its repertoire.

As an unsponsored organisation, whose members are dedicated professionals in their own right, Vibrations is understandably proud of its achievements through the years. Most vocal about these is foundation member/PRO for life, Esther Dalton.

Also included among the band's first players are Carol Christian, Bernie Collier, Petal Dawn Hinkson, Cynthia Matthews, Kathleen Sealy, June Ward, Judy Whitingham and June Xavier. The Vibrations membership has also included Beverly Aleong, Lavaughn Cummings, Florence Cummings, Beverly Fonrose, Fay Jardine, Lynette Dolly, Anella Bobb, Cathy Ann de Four and Joyce Patino.

The band has embarked on three successful tours: one to Canada on the invitation of Professional Secretaries International (PSI); another to Tobago, as a guest of Turtle Beach Hotel; and a third to Grenada, where the band performed in that country's Carnival celebrations. Because of the impact made at its PSI performance, Vibrations was subsequently invited to participate in Toronto's Caribana Festival.

Vibrations has come a long way from its debut performance when the band's repertoire consisted only of two selections, "Reggae Strut" and Kitchener's "Dog Bite Yuh".

Beside Hinds, other men have assisted the girls of Vibrations, including Dennis Pelletier, Percy Pitt, Ken Jones, Dwight Phillip and A. James. Also lending invaluable help have been Gerard Clarke, Raymond "Stars" Charles, Kelvin "Bones" Holder, Ronnie Howard and Emile Charles.

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