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Playing pan came easy for Annise

'I heard the sweet sound of steel all the time'

ONE CAN acquire skills in many different ways. For young steelpan musician/arranger Annise "Halfers" Hadeed, it was by design.

Hadeed, a musician of prolific notability, recently exemplified his musical arranging wizardry at the preliminaries of the South/Central Zonal Panorama competition, when the band he arranged for — Kalomo Kings — (which incidentally never got past the preliminaries of the competition before) got through to this year's South/Central Zonal Finals.

Invaders-bred

It was the first time in his career he worked with a local steelband for a Panorama competition. But, the talented Invaders-bred pannist has to his credit a wealth of knowledge. He has already built himself a reputation in London as both a prominent soloist and arranger. Having worked with London's Red Stripe Ebony Steel Orchestra, for which he earned several second and third places at Notting Hill's Panorama Competition.

For Hadeed, playing pan came easy. He was born and raised on Park Street in Port-of-Spain where Starland Steel Orchestra was



ANNISE HADEED

housed. "It was easy for me to follow. I heard the sweet sound of steel all the time and when it was time for me to play I just fitted in easily."

Hadeed's background should explain why he is one of the country's leading steelband musicians.

As did several of the land's prolific pannists, Hadeed entered the pan world first with Invaders where he played tenor pan in 1971. In 1972 he performed in his first Panorama competition. Four years later he moved over to Phase II Pan Groove which was formed in 1974.

Progressively making his mark in the musical world, he soon began to work as a

freelance musician, playing his tenor pan at the request of notable musicians like Raf Robertson. Later that same year he left for the United States to get a taste of the the music action. While there he sat entry examinations to enter a well-known university and passed, but because of the unavailability of funds he moved on to London.

Breakfast Band

While in London he worked as a freelance musician with the Breakfast Band which comprises members from different Caribbean countries, and mainly focuses on a mixture of Caribbean music with jazz.

After returning to Trinidad in 1987 he was featured in several concerts with some of the country's top musicians.

One of his most memorable appearances was last year at the prestigious Jazzance Music Festival.

For Hadeed, working with a local steelband is a dream come to life. And despite the

fact that he has a lot of work to do with his band from south, we can surely look forward to hearing the name of Kalomo Kings Steel Orchestra a lot more in the future.

After the hectic Carnival season Hadeed will be heading back to London and from there to Denmark to team up with jazz pannist Rudy Smith, to carry on several concerts.

He also has personal

plans which include the recording of his first album. The album will feature some of his own compositions/arrangements.

Hadeed is another of the country's talented musicians and it is to people like him we salute for spending many little-remunerated hours to help the culture of Trinidad and Tobago reach its ultimate.