

Mh 1040

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Pan is Beautiful VIII

Watch those Swiss pannists tonight

THE BIENNIAL Steelband Music Festival opens tonight at the Jean Pierre Complex in Port of Spain and as conductors took participating bands through their final paces during the week, a visiting steelband has suddenly emerged as a serious contender for at least a place in the finals of Pan is Beautiful VIII.

Those among us who are forever quick to laugh-away efforts at mastering pan by persons whose skills were not nurtured here, should have been on hand to hear the whispers, as the Swiss National Steelband rehearsed their pieces at the Starlift panyard on Tuesday night.

Their proficiency-level caused even men who know pan to raise their eyebrows and fed speculation that, by the end of the contest, the foreigners may bring grief to some local group.

The Swiss will play David Rousch's "Matterhorn Shuffle" as their tune of choice, "Take That", a calypso composed by Barbadian David Henry and the test-piece "Festival Overture for Steelbands" by Easley Blackwood, who, along with Marjorie Whyllie and Dr Ann-Marion Osborne, will judge performances.

The band will play in position four of the conventional section of tonight's qualifying round. Seven such bands, plus three traditional orchestras and 12 soloists comprise tonight's playoffs.

There are foreigners, too, in the competition for soloists, one of whom (Rachel Hayward) will tonight perform her own arrangement of Michael Massers "All at Once".

By TERRY JOSEPH

Pan Trinidad president Owen Serrette told the *Express* that although a first glance would indicate that several of the better known bands are not participating in Pan is Beautiful VIII, that actual rehearsals of the bands that are in the contest led him to believe that the quality of the performances which patrons will experience will lack for nothing.

"In any event," he said, "there has been a kind of transmigration of players from some of the very bands that cannot participate because their crackshots are touring with the stage side.

"We at Pan Trinidad feel that this festival will be just as good as any or even better, for that matter, since with fewer bands, patrons will have the opportunity to be more objective in their personal judgment of performances and get to go home earlier to boot," he said.

"We would like to assure our patrons that Pan is Beautiful VIII is an event worth catching from the preliminary rounds, since there will be no semi-final in any of the categories and tonight and tomorrow therefore offers the only chance to hear all of the bands and judge for yourself." The contest starts at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow, when the qualifying rounds will continue at the Jean Pierre Complex.

On Thursday night, the Festival moves to the Central Bank Auditorium, where the top three traditional bands and six soloists will play off their finals.

Conventional bands play their final round at the Complex on Saturday next.

What they will play

CONVENTIONAL BANDS

1. Courts Laventille Sounds Specialists — "Variations on a Theme Pan In Harmony" (tune of choice); Ray Holman's "Steelband Paradise" (calypso)
2. Exodus — Tchaikowsky's "Marche Slave"; "Bahia Girl" (Pelham Goddard-David Rudder)
3. Magic Stars Steel Orchestra — Rossini's "Overture to L'Italiana in Algieri"; Nigel Lewis' "Movin"
5. T&T Police Service Steel Orchestra — Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 (New World) in E Minor Opus 95"; Kitchener's "The Power of Music"
6. Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars — Richard Wagner's "Overture to Tannhauser"; Kitchener's "Earthquake".
7. Parry's Pan School — Ketel's "In a Monastery Garden"; Kitchener's "Heavy Roller".

TRADITIONAL BANDS

1. Serenaders Steel Orchestra — Len "Boogsie" Sharpe's "Dance of the Douens"; Handel's "For Unto Us a Child is Born"

2. Blanca 47
3. Trinidad Nostalgic Steel Orchestra — Rossini's "Excerpts from the William Tell Overture"; Boogsie Sharpe's "Dance of the Douens".

SOLOISTS

1. Stacy Subero — Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee".
2. Sophia Subero — "Presto".
3. Bruce Roberts — Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E Minor".
4. Duvonne Stewart — Mozart's "Sonata in C".
5. Masika Sealey — Strauss' "Voices of Spring"
6. Kareem Brown Chopin's "Fantasie Impromptu"
7. Aisha Williams — Mozart's "Sonata in A"
8. Tuffy Barnette
9. Abigail Liverpool — Chopin's "Waltz in C# Minor"
11. Sherman Fyfe — Chopin's "Waltz in A Minor"
12. Sean Nero — Kenneth Guppy Brown's "Trade Winds".