

Steelband running wild in mih head

PANORAMA '82

WILL SOLO Harmonites become the first band ever to win the finals of the Panorama competition playing its own tune?

Within recent years a number of steelbands, notably Phase Two Pan Groove, Fertrin Pandemonium and "Harmonites" have been submitting their own tune to the judges' ears.

They have met with varying degrees of success, but never have they taken the big prize.

It may be that there remains a residual prejudice against steelbands doing their own thing at the expense, so to speak, of the songs offered by the calypsonians.

Or it may be a case of unfamiliarity with the melody which denies the bands of a certain amount of audience participation without which a steelband will find it very difficult to win Panorama — whatever the competence of the judges.

One day, however, a steelband is going to win Panorama playing its own tune, and, thereby, give a great fillip to those panmen who are trying to meet the demand for music specially composed with steelbands in mind.

True there are calypsonians that do that — Kitchener, of course, Melody and this year

Explainer with "Lorraine. "But what, to my mind, is required, is a whole volume of work and the pan arrangers have a part to play in this.

What all this has to do with "Solo Harmonites" chances is that arranger Earl Rodney's "Pan Running Wild in Mih Head" has become popular in its own right, something that cannot be said of the "own tunes" that we have heard before.

The tune is being sung at the Calypso Revue by Rodney's calypso colleague, "Squibby", and Squibby has been performing it so well in the tent that he receives encore after encore.

Besides, the record was released so early that nobody really interested in pan can argue that they have never heard the tune.

As a calypso it has its own integrity, but it has all the "room" for the kind of arrangement that we have come to associate with steelbands.

So, the stars are in the proper configuration for a "Solo" first. Whether that happens, of course, will depend on what Rodney makes of his pan arrangement of "Pan Running Wild" and how Harmonites play on the nights in question.

Note: This piece was written before the East Zone competition, last night, at which Solo Harmonites performed. KEITH SMITH