

Pan Trinbago hosts Steelband Month

Pan Trinbago will host Steelband Month during the period August 1 to 31, with a number of planned activities in commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the declaration of the steelpan as the National Musical Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

The celebrations start with an Interfaith Service on July 31, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Independence Square, Port-of-Spain at 11 am. At the service, flags of the member steelbands will be blessed.

Other events include soloists performances at various business places throughout the month of August and the Rededication to the Foundation Stone located at the back of the St Paul Street Multi-Purpose Complex where the Steelband Association has its origin in 1949. This is carded for August 4, at 4 pm.

The Laventille Steelband Festival is another of the signal events on the calendar. This takes place on August 7 through the streets of Laventille.

Bad John Day—The Defenders of Pan, an interactive talk show with the “heroes and survivors” of pan lore, is carded for August 11, at the Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars Orchestra pan complex, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain. On this day, those who fought and risked life and limb to protect steelband turf and the instrument against hostil-

ity, share their memories.

The highlight of the month’s proceedings, The Awards Ceremony, is scheduled for August 13, at the Auditorium of the National Academy for the Performing Arts Centre (NAPA).

This event, as the name implies, is held in honour of individuals who have made sterling contribution to the development of the Steelband Movement. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will go towards the Sydney Gollop Benefit Fund. Contribution is \$200 and dress is formal.

August 14 is set aside for the Fun & Family Day at a venue to be announced.

Junior steelband members will have their own special day in the form of a Youth Rally. The date is August 20. This event is open to all junior members and their supporters.

The popular Pan in the De Countryside continues in Toco with August 21 as the designated day. Showtime is 2 pm to 8 pm.

Featured bands are CAL Invaders, Tropical Angel Harps, Pan Stereonettes, Melodians, Southern Marines Steelband Foundation and Tokyo.

The curtain comes down on August 31 with a Steelband Jamboree at Woodford Square, Port-of-Spain. This event is in collaboration with the Dr Eric Williams TC Memorial Committee. Starting time is 1 pm and is free to the public.



Popular CAL Invaders quad pannist Desiree Myers is all smiles as the Woodbrook band performs at the recent farewell pan concert for bpTT Renegades. Invaders is one of the bands billed to perform in Toco when Pan Trinbago continues its Pan in D Countryside series. PHOTO: ANDY HYPOLITE