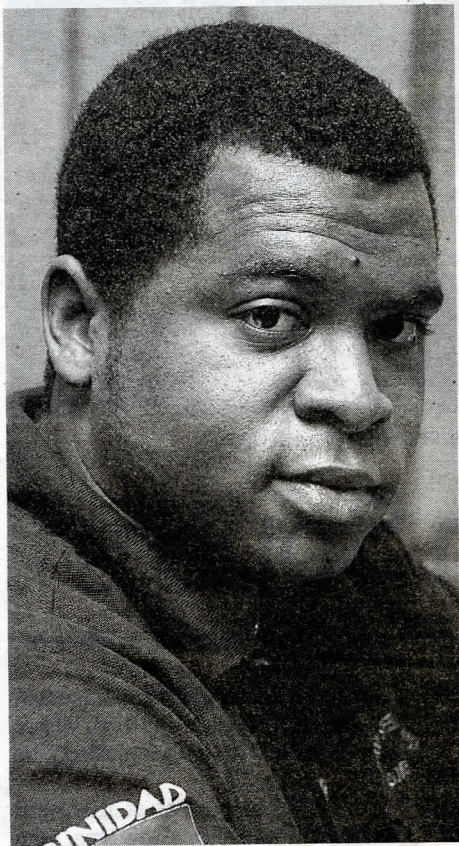


Kygel ready for the world



KYGEL BENJAMIN. PHOTO: BRIAN NG FATT

Kygel Benjamin is a name you can look for in pan arranging.

This normally laid -back panman is charting a course in composing, arranging and playing that is phenomenal.

The 24-year-old composer of one of the best pan songs for Carnival 2011, if not the best, Kygel's Pan for Peace, will resonate in the steelband world for years. The song could very well be the theme song of any programme dealing with crime.

A tenor pan player with the National Steel Symphony Orchestra (NSSO), Benjamin loves his job.

He started with Blue Diamonds Steel Orchestra under Bertrand "Bob" Thomas as veteran tuner, then moved on to the Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars, where he is going guns as a drummer/pannist and arranger.

The future looks bright for

this young arranger, who did stints with Is We, A Single Pan Band, and is now with Harlem Syncopators spreading his talent.

He lauds his former music teacher of South East Secondary School, Odessa Vincent-Brown, for setting him on course with his musical career, and for setting the platform from which his take-off was smooth.

Among Benjamin's goals is to take a big band to National Panorama honours. He admires to top arrangers- Clive Bradley (deceased), Len "Boogie" Sharpe, and of course Leon "Smooth" Edwards of the All Stars.

It's interesting how he got started in pan.

"Pan for me started at an excursion, where I took up the pan in a single pan band and started to make sense... at least to me," said the second year Music major at UWI.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

BANDS WORKED FOR (PLAYER/ARRANGER)

- Trinidad All Stars
- Is We steel Orchestra
- Amantes De Paranda

COMPOSER OF PAN FOR PEACE (2011)

- Associated with Green Room Studio
- Pan Tutor (City Angels Music Camp)

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

- Steel Pan (all ranges)
- Drums (conventional)
- Percussion