



Band Spotlight

Exodus



Photo by Noel Saitzenhn

This steelband is comparatively young in the steelband world but over the years have built up quite a musical reputation for itself with its outstanding successes.

It was formed around 1980 when Flamingoes which operated in the St. John Road St. Augustine area, broke up. Many of the players formed Exodus which had its baptism in the Panorama competition of 1982, when the band placed third in the East Zone with selection "The Will". The band placed the in the National Finals that same year. The band had its first taste of victory in 1984 when it won the East

Zone title with the selection "Lucy". The band in these early years had several different arrangers including. There was Initially Ray Holman and the Headley Brothers. Later on Desmond Waithe and Pelham Goddard as a team later on. At present Pelham Goddard is the sole arranger. The early administration was handled by Arnim Mohammed who passed away a few years ago.

The now famous Pan Ramajay competition had its genesis in Exodus panyard. Over the years this annual former competition which showcased the pan-

nists of Trinidad and Tobago with their skills, has now taken on a pan-jazz format and is now a concert rather than a competition. It has grown from the panyard at St. Augustine, to the National Flour Mills on Wrightson Road, the Queen's Park Savannah and now the amphitheatre in St. James.

Between the years 1984 to the present, Exodus has won the East Zonal title including the years 1984, 1985, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001. But the highlights of the bands are the three National Panorama Titles in 1992, 2001 and 2003,

a culmination of hardwork and dedication.

Exodus has also won the Biannual Musical Festival in 2002 and has also achieved success in the quartet and ensemble categories of previous festivals.

Many young persons from the St. Augustine area including "The Pan Pipers School" and St. Augustine Senior Comprehensive make up quite a large segment of this most successful band. Discipline and commitment are the hallmark of this band which under the astute direction of Ainsworth Mohammed and arranger Pelham Goddard have been maintained.