

Good Friday for pan at Idaho university

By **TERRY JOSEPH**

WHILE LOCAL pan-yards went silent, perhaps trying to avoid conflict with religious perceptions, lovers of the music in Idaho were on Good Friday night treated to a 90-

minute concert by the State University Steelband, whose show repertoire ranged from classics to calypsoes by Kitchener, The Mighty Sparrow and Baron. Staged at Goranson Hall in ISU's Fine Arts building, the sold out

500-seater surprised even concert organisers who ran out of programmes, having attracted new pan music enthusiasts from as far as Salt Lake City and Yellowstone; both communities some two hours' drive away.

Lines at the door occasioned an atypical curtain delay.

For Friday night's concert, a twice yearly showcase of the various musical genres taught at ISU, hall décor included Trini promotional material sup-

plied to musical director Dr Jeannine Remy during a recent visit here by the Tourism and Industrial Development Company (Tidco).

Dr Remy, Associate Professor of Music and Instructor of Percussion Studies at ISU's Department of Music, has again been selected as musical director of BWIA Invaders for the World Steelband Music Festival, which takes place here in September/October.

Speaking yesterday from her office, Dr Remy, who spent a year here teaching pan at UWI's Creative Arts

Centre on a Fulbright grant, described the evening as a success. "We tried to echo the real Trini flavour from the foyer, playing Panorama and calypso CDs, so the audience entered an environment reflective of the real thing. I think it was a success in that regard too.

"During the intermission we invited the audience on stage and were mobbed by curious persons wanting to look under the instruments and ask questions. A lot of them left still not believing that the sound actually came from the pans but during performances they danced and even came up to the stage for an impromptu limbo.

"The programme structure allowed me to talk between selections, using that space to explain the musical style and give some historical perspectives of and recognition to

Trinidad for its contribution to the world of music.

Those who got copies could follow the name of each piece, its style, arranger and composer.

"We managed to stuff a good variety into the concert too and I was able to reproduce a lot of what I learnt in Trinidad. For those songs where I was not the arranger, I can assure you the piece was transcribed note for note from the pan-yard, particularly in the calypsoes.

"The audience was especially thrilled by those pieces done in calypso tempo, including Baron's "Somebody", Kitchener's "Pan Here to Stay", Ken "Professor" Philmore's arrangement of Sparrow's "Congo Man" and The Invader's Pan in the 21st Century selection from last year which was The Hues Corporation "Rock the Boat".

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mented by percussionists on triangles, crash cymbals, timpani and bass drum, normally features four players in its engine room, two bass sets, one four-cello, one triple-cello, one quadrophonic, two double-seconds, two double-tenors and five single tenors.

It comprises students from ISU,

although not necessarily from the music department. "One does not have to be a music major," said Dr Remy. "The fundamental requirement is for music literacy, which speeds up the learning process and consequently makes it easier to enhance our repertoire at short notice.

"Members are

auditioned and in the orchestra at this time are nursing majors, computer scientists and business majors. Faculty members play other instruments (saxophone, trumpet, piano, guitar, bassoon, etc.), because this is a class that qualifies them for college credits. It is, however, a lot of fun and as a bonus,

rekindles memories of Trinidad," she said.

Dr Remy is due back here next month to begin rehearsals with BWIA Invaders for the World Steelband Music Festival. This year the Woodbrook-based band is doing her composition "9/11" a piece based on the events of September 11, 2001 in the US.



DR JEANNINE REMY, musical director, Idaho State University, conducts the orchestra.

"The classics had their own attraction," she said. "There was Grieg's "Anitra's Dance" and "In the Hall of the Mountain King", then an original work "Song to Chirachua" by Trinidadian Clifford Alexis, my mentor from Northern Illinois University, a couple of pop tunes, Tito Puete's Oye Como

Vay, and two American patriotic pieces.

"It was good for the musicians too," she said, "because the full band does not perform on campus often, although we perform regularly for private functions to earn money to keep our pans in tune, which also gives us the facility of bringing in

Trinidadian guest artists. Goranson Hall has seen Ray Holman, Nervin "Teach" Saunders, Rudy Williams, Desiree Myers, Clifford Alexis, Liam Teague and Andy Narell since we started performing publicly.

The 19-piece steelband, which was on Friday night supple-



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