



**PAN TECHNIQUE:** Nubia Williams, external relations officer, PSCC, explains pan-playing techniques to students enrolled in the bpTT-sponsored Pan Playing Techniques Workshop at Naparima Girls High School.

THE future of pan music is being fostered and protected through a series of intensive music workshops, catering to music students, that started at two venues on July 11.

Administered by the Pan in Schools Coordinating Council (PSCC), and fully sponsored by energy company BP Trinidad and Tobago, the Pan Playing Techniques and Music Composition workshops are presenting a clear advantage to over 60 secondary school students studying Music at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) level.

This is the sixth year of this collaborative effort of

# Securing the future of pan music in schools

the PSCC and bpTT, delivering these Ministry of Education-endorsed workshops catering to music students.

Ronda Francis, Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, bpTT, was enthusiastic about the programme: "bpTT has had a long history in support of our national instrument as demonstrated by our collaboration with the BP

Renegades as well as partnering with organisations like the PSCC that foster steelpan education. In addition, we are fully committed to providing opportunities that allow our talented young people to progress and thereby energise the future of our nation."

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PSCC president and principal of St Augustine Secondary School, St Augustine, Andre Moses, explained the vision of the organisation: "We want to encourage the next generation to develop the full potential of our national instrument. We want young people to get involved in every aspect of the steelpan industry, and see a whole new cadre of arrangers, composers, tuners and players. We are working hard toward this goal and with the continued help of bpTT we know that it is definitely possible."

The hands-on and interactive Pan Playing Techniques workshop, held at the Naparima Girls High School in San Fernando, is coordinated by Marceline Peters, PSCC secretary, and facilitated by a trio of highly experienced and qualified musicians, Damyon Alexander, Kyle Noel and Nubia Williams also PSCC's external relations officer.

According to Williams, "At the end of this exercise these students would have amassed a number of skills including exploring and manipulating chord progressions and voicing to achieve different moods for musical phrases, motifs and compositions. This workshop will also expand their understanding of various aspects of the steelpan as a dynamic instrument."

Parallel to the south-based workshop is the Music Composition workshop that runs

from July 11th to 29th at St Augustine Secondary. Coordinated by Patricia Goddard, treasurer, PSCC and facilitated by Paul Massy, the organisation's first vice president, and talented composer Nigel Diaz. The workshop was especially designed to cater to CSEC music students from forms three to five.

Goddard explained that the course was developed to help students explore and manipulate sounds to express original ideas, thoughts and feelings; use compositional devices found in music; and use traditional and electronic means to record their own compositions.

"One of the biggest advantages of this workshop is that at the end of it, each of these students will have a composition portfolio that can be used as part of their music studies. They will also be exposed to using Sibelius, which is the world's leading music composition and notation software. As a CSEC Music examiner I can say first hand that these workshops have lifted the performance of students and give them the experience and confidence to excel," Massy added.

Karrisha Eastman, a Form Four student at Tunapuna Secondary School captured the essence of the workshops: "These workshops will give us the opportunity to sharpen our skills for music exams and will help us to express ourselves even better musically. Students from all over the country are benefiting, and from speaking to some of them, we can't wait to share what we learn with our friends when school reopens. We all recognise that we are lucky to have been given this wonderful opportunity."



**LEARNING THE SOFTWARE:** Paul Massy, first vice-president, PSCC, gives these students an overview of the use of the Sibelius music notation software at the launch of the Music Composition Workshop hosted at St Augustine Secondary School, St Augustine.