

ABSTRACT

Arrangers, Adjudicators and Judging Criteria:
Creativity in The Panorama Domain

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The purpose of this study is to answer a fundamental question, “How does the structural framework of the annually adjudicated competition, Panorama, affect the development of arrangements created for it?” This research delved into and questioned the effectiveness of the rubric outlined for the competition to judge the arrangements. It also aimed to determine if this system of judging, which has not changed significantly from the inception of this competition over fifty-three years ago, has become irrelevant in the contemporary socio-cultural context. The cultural values, norms, and ideals reflected by these criteria were also questioned: are they based on local or foreign notions, are their norms and values related to classical (European) music rather than the creolised music genres of popular music in Trinidad?

Data for this research was gathered utilizing two main methods, a case study and a thesis exhibition. The case study was conducted at the 2013 single pan band Panorama competition while the thesis exhibition was held at the JFK Lecture Theatre on March 20th, 2016. These two methods formed the practical component of the thesis and assisted in the process of knowledge production that has contributed to this research. To further complement these methods other qualitative methods were utilized which were participant observation, questionnaires and both personal and recorded interviews. The evidence presented in this study suggest that the current rubric does not easily allow rogue musical techniques to flourish within the Panorama domain as comments made by adjudicators focus mainly on what the rubric prescribes. Innovative ideas outside the accepted field of knowledge are not easily acknowledged, thus, arrangers are contented with reproducing the accepted techniques in hopes of winning the competition.

Keywords: Nigel L. Diaz, Steelpan Panorama, Creativity, Rubric Development, Panorama Judging, Trinidad and Tobago Panorama, The Panorama Domain, Panorama Arranging Techniques, Creativity