



Nubia Williams, external relations officer, Pan in Schools Coordinating Council, explains pan-playing techniques to students enrolled in the bpTT-sponsored Pan Playing Techniques workshop at Naparima Girls High School.

# PSCC, bpTT team up to energise steelpan music

The future of steelpan music is being fostered and protected through a series of intensive music workshops catering to music students. The workshops began on July 11 at two venues—St Augustine Secondary School in St Augustine, and Naparima Girls High School in San Fernando.

Administered by the Pan in Schools Coordinating Council (PSCC), and fully sponsored by energy company BP Trinidad and Tobago (bpTT), 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.



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 at St Augustine Secondary School.

This is the sixth year of this collaborative effort between the PSCC and bpTT in 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.”

PSCC president and principal of the St Augustine Secondary School, 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.”

The hands-on and interactive Pan Playing Techniques workshop, held at the Naparima Girls High School in San Fernando, was coordinated by Marceline Peters, PSCC secretary, and

facilitated by a trio of highly experienced and qualified musicians, Damyon Alexander, Kyle Noel and Nubia Williams, who is also PSCC's external relations officer.

Parallel to the south-based workshop is the Music Composition workshop that runs until tomorrow at the St Augustine Secondary School. 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 between forms three and five.

Massy said: “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.”

Karrisha Eastman, a fourth form 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... We all recognise that we are lucky to have been given this wonderful opportunity.”