

ML1040

Success Stars Pan Sounds scores in Scotland

THE Success Stars Pan Sounds steel orchestra was forced to perform one hour and 20 minutes longer than scheduled during its first performance at the Aboyne Academy in Scotland on Thursday.

Such was the performance that the sold out audience stayed on in the auditorium a full ten minutes while the band members were already in their dressing rooms having completed their night's programme. Success Stars

Pan Sounds is currently touring the north eastern Scottish city of Aberdeen as this country's representative to that city's Annual International Youth Festival.

Led by Ben Jackson, the conductor, the orchestra opened its concert performance with Jit Samaroo's 1994 World Steelband Festival Test Piece — "La Trinite", holding the audience spellbound.

The audience remained enthralled as

the band coursed through themes from movies like Elton John's "Circle of Life" from the *Lion King*, Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing" from *Bodyguard*, Michael Jackson's "Will You Be there", and The William Tell Overture from that old western, "Bonanza".

This year the festival is celebrating the centenary of the movies.

In the first half of its performance, the Success Laventille Com-

posite School students rendered Lord Kitchener's "Pan Night and Day", the 1993 Schools Festival tune of choice adapted and arranged by Cary Codrington and Ben Jackson. Members of the audience rose spontaneously as Ben Jackson dramatically mounted a flight of 40 stairs close to the auditorium's control console from where he brought the orchestra's rendition to a rousing climax.

That segment concluded with Felicia

Joseph and Debbie-Ann Questel, two members of the orchestra donning their calypso dance outfits and thrilling the audience with a scintillating calypso dance and a professionally executed limbo.

During the intermission, city residents swamped the teachers at the souvenir table to purchase T-shirts, buttons, cassettes, CDs and other items which were on sale, while scores of others mobbed

the back-stage crew, keeping them busy with inquiries about the instruments.

Steven Singh and Michael De Piza opened the second segment with a drumology session followed by Debbie-Ann Questel and Felicia Joseph performing an African dance.

Then the orchestra took the now captive audience into a Caribbean musical journey with hits like "Say No To Drugs" (while

Kareem Brown, Ben Jackson and Cary Codrington exhibited their individual skills on nearly all the instruments available); "Wave it to Brazil", a medley of folk songs, and David Rudder's "Calypso Music".

They they launched into the final scheduled piece, Bob Marley's "One Love", during which the pannists left the stage singing Bob Marley's classic tune. But the audience,

apparently not satisfied, persuaded the producers to get the players back on stage.

This time the citizens of Aboyne, a town about 50 miles outside the city centre, got a crash course in moving to the left, right, up-north and down-south.

As a result of their performance, the truck and coach drivers asked the festival organisers to be assigned to the Trinidad group for the rest of the day.

The band will con-

tinue their performances throughout Aberdeen, highlighting their tour by accompanying an American dance troupe on Thursday at Her Majesty's Theatre in the city centre.

The 30 students are being accompanied by four teachers, their tuner, Lawrence "Eager" Myers, and an executive member of PanTrinbago. They are expected to return to Trinidad on August 11. (SJA)