

# TT Exodus Caribbean pan 'champs'

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TUNAPUNA-BASED Exodus Steel Orchestra is the top steel orchestra in the Caribbean.

Participating in the inaugural Caribbean Panorama Championship 2001 at the National Stadium, in St Georges, Grenada on Saturday night, the reigning National Panorama champion of Trinidad and Tobago 2001 brought home the title in convincing fashion before a large audience, at the event produced by the Caribbean Steelband Association (Caripan).

Before a five-member panel of adjudicators comprising Lorna Conyette and Junior Howell (Trinidad and Tobago) Gregory Piper (St Lucia) Jocelyn Williams (Antigua) and

Vincent Stewart (St Vincent) Exodus struck its first musical note at 2.15 am, playing it's Bomb Tune entitled "Bailamos" arranged by Pelham Goddard and "Happy Song" in the calypso segment of the contest.

Exodus' presentation for the Bomb Tune earned the band rave reviews for incorporating a Latin dance couple in this act. The band dominated both segments of the competition.

It appeared in position number nine, while Laventille-based ten-time National Panorama champion WITCO Desperadoes Steel Orchestra closing the programme.

As fate would have it, the Trinidad and Tobago representatives took not only first, but second places as well. Desperadoes played "Rebecca" arranged by Clive Bradley and "Love is a many splendored thing."

For Exodus' efforts the band will receive a trophy and a first prize valued at US\$20,000.

This country's representatives came up against eight other steelbands from six Caribbean countries, daring to match musical might

at the event open only to bands from countries that are Association of Caribbean States (ACS) members.

Steel orchestras participating were required to perform with a maximum of 60 pannists, but no less than 25.

Others countries represented were Antigua, Grenada; St Lucia, St Vincent, Guyana and Barbados.

The event started later than its scheduled advertised time of 8 pm and following the formal proceeding Antigua's ACB Harmonites opened the show at 9 pm. Joining the band centre-stage was calypsonian Swallow (Rupert Philo) who waved their flag. The band played his song entitled "Pan Conversation" as its Panorama tune.

Patrons stayed throughout the competition to witness the offerings by all the contestants and apart from the keen interest shown in this country's steel orchestras ACB Harmonites of Antigua and NCB Angel Harps from Grenada, received numerous cheers for its presentations.