



Band Spotlight

Merry Tones

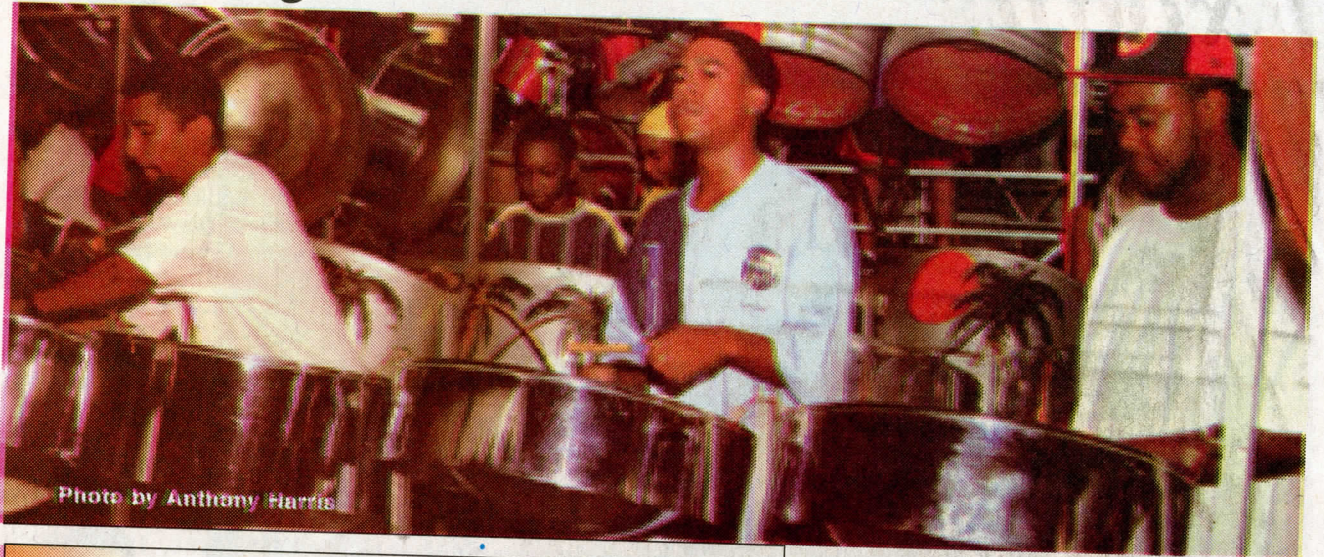


Photo by Anthony Harris

real.stable.

"Eastern is MY answer"

When I'm saving up to pay my tuition fees to further my studies, the extra interest I earn from Eastern goes a long way!

When you think Credit Unions... think Eastern



Eastern Credit Union
Leading the Way

www.easterncredit.com

La Joya, Eastern Main Road
Ph: 662-1184

MERRY TONES Steel Orchestra was established around 1942 in Diego Martin and is one of the oldest existing bands.

Founding members included Cyrus Smith, Leon St Rose and Arty Lewis, all deceased.

Their descendants, however, have continued to play a part in the band and its current manager, retired police officer Kendal Lewis, is a cousin of Arty.

Lewis joined the band as a youngster in 1959 and has been manager for the past decade.

In its 60-year history, the band has been known as De Boys, Northern Syncopators and Modern Harps.

But the name Merry Tones was adopted in the 1950s and except for changes to the spelling of "merry" (the

"y" was at one time changed to "i") it has stuck.

Until very recently, Merry Tones was classed as a small band and in 1995 it won Small Band Panorama title.

In 1990, it placed fifth in the Panorama final and at the Pan is Beautiful competition 1984, it captured third place.

In the last five years, Lewis says, the band has grown rapidly and today it has the full complement of 100 players for Panorama.

He attributes Merry Tones' growth to the number of young people joining each year through the band's pan school.

Not only is there an influx of young people into the band, but Lewis says more female players are joining as well.