

Spotlight



JIT SAMAROO

It was their final set that culled the night's biggest dancing party

president Owen Serrette.

It was indeed the best pan set I have heard in a very many years, moving seamlessly from a Shadow suite, through side one of the vintage Stanley Black album *Cuban Moonlight*, to variations on works by Sparrow and Kit-chener and pure parang.

Saturday's concert, held at the Silver Stars panyard on Tragarete Road in Port of Spain, was the ninth annual marriage of parang and steelband music, which runs each year over five Saturdays.

In addition to the host band, whose repertoire has broadened to fuse their old standards with some of today's attention-getters, DJ Edward Camps and The Samaroo Jets, scintillating parang music came from Victor Julien's group Resplendor.

Lead singer, Sarah Ali, rendered the evening's work in one of the sweetest voices that the artform has on offer, as Resplendor delivered the popular mix of authentic parang, soca parang and adaptable contemporary songs.

But it was the Samaroo Jets who stole the show that evening. Everytime they played the crowd on the dance floor swelled, but it was their final set

that culled the night's biggest dancing party.

A shout of approval went up from the crowd, when the Shadow set began. By the time that was finished, we had heard "I Come Out to Play", "Dingolay" and "Bassman",

among other Shadow favourites. Then it was the likes of "Perfidia" to cool down the set, with the lilting "Drink a Rum and a Puncha Crema" to raise the tempo again. "Un-chained Melody", Nelson's "La La", the traditional "Jingle

Bells" and Sparrow's "Obeah Wedding" were all there. The castillian, parang soca and pure parang songs, as well as an Indian melody, were all tremendously received.

The Samaroos played the crowd as

well as they did their instruments, with Jit setting the pace and doing much of the solo work, while Sonalal "Killer" Samaroo used his drum kit to provide all the percussion, swinging the rhythms between songs to form

seamless linkages.

Among the notables in the crowd were Nicky Inniss, who succeeded former Scotiabank managing director Ronnie Chan as Silver Stars captain, and former Chief Justice Clinton Bernard.