



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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Media Release
Steelpan Takes Centre Stage in Carnival 2024

“The first Panorama season following the milestone achievement of the UN’s adoption of World Steel Pan Day has been nothing short of remarkable. Panorama 2024 is a testament to the versatility and dynamism of our national instrument, and its global appeal.” So said Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell in his reflections on the season thus far. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts is proud of the prominent role that the steelpan has played in Carnival 2024, evidenced by the high level of participation and high quality of production displayed by musicians in this year’s Panorama; as well as the outstanding patronage of the season’s events.

This year’s theme “*Come Home to the Rhythms of Steel: Feel it! Love it! Share it!*” embodied the spirit of the competition as the festivities have, thus far, been an energizing and patriotic display for locals to enjoy, and a show-stopping welcoming gift to our foreign visitors.

Since the launch of Panorama in November 2023, patrons have been able to savour dynamic performances throughout the Single-Pan Competitions as well as the Small, Medium and Large Steel Orchestra Competitions that have taken place nationwide. This season has seen a rise in participation, with over 8000 steelpan players. This demonstrates a marked increase in youth and community participation in this local art form and is a testament to the tremendous commitment that local musicians are directing towards taking Trinidad and Tobago’s indigenous music to the global stage. The season has also seen large numbers of patrons at ticketed events as well as at the various panyard crawls, many of whom were international tourists and visiting members of the diaspora.

Of note was the reaction of American Actress, Phylicia Rashad, during a trip to a local pan yard. Rashad was blown away by the magnificence, science, musicology, discipline and joy of the steelpan. She also commented on the diversity of the sound and the unparalleled energy that players demonstrate when playing together as one. World-famous Ghanaian travel Vlogger, Wode Maya, also savoured a visit to the West Side Symphony Steel Orchestra during his trip to Trinidad and Tobago in late 2023; as well as scores of Cruise Ship passengers who verbalized their contentment with the quality of the music exuding from our local instrument.

The Ministry continues to be a proud supporter of Panorama 2024 and commends Pan Trinbago and corporate sponsors for continuing to collaborate with the Government to boost cultural confidence and promote international respect for and youth involvement in the steelpan movement.

Congratulations are also extended to Fusion Steel and New Age Trendsetters, winners of the Ken “Professor” Philmore South/Central Pan Champs; Katzenjammers Steel Orchestra, National Medium Conventional Band winners; T&TEC New East Side Dimension, National Small Conventional Bands winners; and San Juan Chord Masters, National Panorama Single Pan winners.

Preparations are currently underway to host the National Large Conventional Bands Finals (tomorrow) Saturday 10th February, 2024 at the Queen’s Park Savannah, Port of Spain during which ten bands are expected to compete.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts is confident that the future of steelpan is in good hands given the passion and pride displayed by the players, arrangers and supporters throughout the 2024 Panorama season and wishes all finalists best of luck in tomorrow’s competition.



Scores of locals and international visitors gather to enjoy the iconic sounds of the Steelpan.

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