



Sonic Steel was founded by Sune Borregaard in 2001. Sune noted that at that time the Danish steelband community almost entirely consisted of school bands and happy amateurs. The vision of Sonic Steel was to showcase the possibilities a steelpan ensemble consisting of professional musicians could achieve.

As such, all members of Sonic Steel were headhunted to play in the band and are some of the best steel pan musicians in the Denmark. Sonic Steel's musicians are Lene M. Martinsen on tenor, Rasmus Steenholt Skovmand on double tenor, Katherine Pitarch on double second, Sune Borregaard on cello, Marc Davies on double bass and Soren Jensen on drums.

We wanted to play music that would assist the Danish pan scene to evolve.

by setting a standard of highly professional arrangements, performances and recordings that would encourage other bands to raise their own standards. We tried to incorporate different techniques and styles into our repertoire to introduce something different to the steelpan scene. Voicing techniques from big

bands, jazzy harmonies and rhythm structures around Afro-American music were some of the techniques employed but we maintained the link to the traditional steelband repertoire, as this is where it all started and we also wanted to maintain that identity.

Another of Sonic Steel's initiatives was to give their players the opportunity to express their music more dynamically. We found it easier to operate with a relatively small crew of six players. The Danish steel pan scene has been characterised by a lot of relatively good steelbands from a lot of music schools. However the teachers in most cases are not pan players themselves. This resulted in a kind of



will being created in the education of pan students, as it can be difficult to find a qualified teacher, once they've reached a certain level. In

addition, there has not been bands/groups to look up to in the same way as there are with other instruments such as guitar or drums. So Sonic Steel was formed to both educate the panplayers and the general audience of the possibilities and versatility of the steel pan. If you want to know more about Sonic Steel then visit www.sonicsteel.dk

By Sune Borregaard