

Yolande RICHARDSON

A fresh new face on the New York Pan scene is Yolande Richardson who entered the steel band music arena as a tenor player at age of sixteen with Arima Senior Comprehensive School Band, Trinidad.

From there Yolande teamed up with the Jay Notes of Sande Grande and on to the Sangre Grande Cordettes. Yolande fears solo performances but to her credit, she successfully performed the National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago for a school sports day at St. Crispin's Anglican School. Now she seeks refuge in a group environment. →



Her love of the Tenor faded into a passion with the Bass as her musical talents blossomed during her tenure with the Jay Notes. Her appointment as secretary to the Jay Notes helped Yolande to recognize that dedication and love of steel music is the driving force behind the successes the art form has achieved, as there is no pay scale future for its musicians. **A full time nurse, Yolande finds solace in steel and is contemplating ways for women to become more involved in the organizational aspect of managing a steel orchestra.**

After finding a home with Utopia Pan Soul-The Next Generation and elevated to the office of Vice President, Yolande is working with the executive members to help the orchestra meet their goals. Scheduling free classes to teach music theory to future musicians; orchestrating fundraising events to attract more youth involvement in the steel band music genre and seeking innovative ways to obtain sponsorship and funding.

Candidly emphasizing the fact that total professionalism is the path to garnering respect for steel musicians, Yolande plans to introduce and institute contractual obligations to membership with the organization. Yolande envisions the establishment of a steel centre to showcase the art form and hopes that it is accomplished in her time. With so many exciting events on the horizon for pannists. Yolande is tireless in her efforts to help the next generation realize their bright future as steel musicians. **Contact Yolande at ttfreckles@yahoo.com.**

by **Vanessa Clarke**

