



# Firebirds

## PHOENIX FIREBIRDS STEEL BAND

Once in awhile a new band comes along, adding variety to the already colourful musical landscape. Combining the artistic attributes of six experienced musicians, Phoenix steel ensemble was born, creating a fresh dimension to the steel pan world. Each individual brings a unique flavour to the Phoenix family. From soloists to vocalist their versatility is quite evident, playing R&B, Jazz, Latin, Pop, Reggae, Calypso and many other genres of music. Phoenix steel band was created to provide programs, events and services to promote/support the understanding and appreciation of Caribbean heritage and culture for the enrichment of the lives of people in the community.

by Ron Shah

**Their goals are to train, nurture and encourage creative musical talent especially among the youth and promote the cultural diversity of music while developing key elements of world music, as well as create, maintain and support other music performance ensembles and music education projects in Ontario.**

Robbie Charles from Pamberi steel orchestra is their musical director; he performs solo, and has released numerous CDs in Toronto. Collette Murray and Catherine Dickenson have extensive experience in cultural and classic dance, they double up as Phoenix's dance troupe. Gerard Williams, their bass man, also sings and his voice has become a special feature at performances. Vince Gobind is their 'Conga Man' and International DJ who performs across North and South America and throughout the Caribbean. Wayne Donawa is a multi-talented musician, web designer, graphics

designer, soloist and teacher, who is into everything Pan. He is also the creator of Chrome Addicts [www.chromeaddict.com](http://www.chromeaddict.com). Ronald Shah considers himself the glue, keeping the peace and ensuring everything runs smoothly, handling the bookings and public relations sector. Other ensembles in their organisation includes the Phoenix Sunbirds and Phoenix Juniors.

**Contact details:**

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