



Pantonic

PANTONIC ALL STARS STEEL ORCHESTRA!



Formed in 1985, Pantonic All Stars started with steel pans obtained from several sources, and progressed to chrome plated instruments as funds became available from gigging and charitable sources. In 1987, they made their first visit to Beziers, Stockport's twin town in the south of France.

Pantonic All Stars has taken part in a number of competitions but most notably in the National 'Music for Youth' Festival where they were presented with the Outstanding Performance Award twice and performed at School Proms concerts including the Royal Albert Hall, four times between 1989 and 1995. They were featured several times on television, radio and youth programmes including Blue Peter and the 'Young Entertainer of the Year' semi finals on BBC1.

Their repertoire includes pop and light classical music, as well as the traditional calypso. In 1989, they recorded their first cassette at the famous Strawberry Studios in Stockport. Since then four CDs have been recorded with cassette versions. Easy listening and modern tunes are mixed with a selection of calypsos and some well-known classics, initially arranged by Nigel Braithwaite and then by Scott Sinckler. Steven Marshall is their current musical director.

In 1996, they got a National Lottery grant with which they purchased a minibus and van to transport their equipment. The lottery grant and money from fund raising also assisted in the purchase of musical instruments including cases and stands as well as uniforms for more than 35 players. Biggs Yearwood made all their pans and they have recently bought their first set of high quads and a couple more bow tenors. →

They regularly appear at shows, garden festivals, carnivals and shopping precincts, taking on over 40 events each year throughout the UK. In recent years, they have toured Devon as well as the northern and midland counties, Scotland and North Wales. Pantonic All Stars have performed in Europe on many occasions, visiting the other twin town Heilbronn, Germany in May 1993, touring Barbados in August 1998 and revisiting Beziers and Valras Plage in France in the summer of 2004. Their next tour is to Esbjerg in Denmark in February 2007, to undertake workshops and concerts for the youth service.

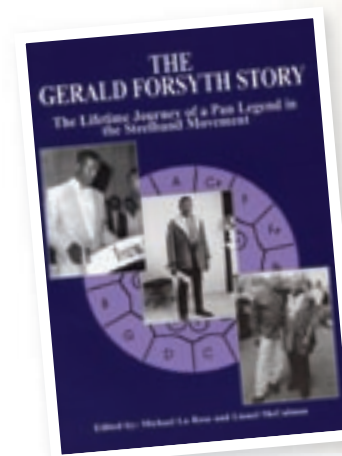
The orchestra currently has 24 senior players and a junior section of 18. They not only provide a music service for the young people of Stockport but also a social and youth function. Since 1985, they have raised over £32,000 for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Bone Marrow Trust Fund as well as supporting many other local and national charities through fund raising performances.

Visit website www.pantonic-all-stars.org

By Adrian Botham



BOOK REVIEW! The Gerald Forsyth Story



The publication gives its readers an opportunity to delve into the exclusive world of Pan Music. It takes you on a journey through time from the early days of the steel pan instrument in the 1940s to present day. Gerald Forsyth shares his experiences, trials and tribulations with such clarity that it affords the reader the privileged opportunity of visualising event rolling into event. The book covers the past but also highlights the future of the Steel Pan.

To date, Gerald is still in demand for pan teaching workshops and seminars. His appearance/workshop at the first London Steel Pan Conference in September 2006 was well received. Throughout his career, Gerald has always remained steadfast and true to himself, a global traveller, sharing his talent as a musician and tutor. He established pan teaching in London's ILEA schools, formed his own steel band and steel band combos and has become the steel pan legend he is today. Truly a great publication of this icon's musical journey with the steel pan instrument that must be read by all.