

Jazz Festival

T&T STEEL PAN AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

On an invitation from the Queens Royal College Foundation, a charitable trust established in August 1995 to raise funds for QRC, I appeared as a guest speaker at their Symposium for Steelband Leaders and Managers,

"Accessing the Global Steelpan Market", was held on the 26th October 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The workshop was very interesting and I spoke on the way steelbands in Europe managed touring including transportation of equipment and musicians, airlines, hotels and performances to varied audiences.

It was a very worthwhile conference, which saw a wealth of experience shared with all who attended. Mr. David Bereaux of the Copyright Music Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago, COTT, spoke about the consequences pertaining to royalties for music played by steel bands. This

is something that steel band leaders should be looking into when playing other people's music as it could prove to be quite costly. This was a learning process for the majority of us.

On Friday 27th, the festival moved to the Exodus steel orchestra's pan theatre where Exobrass, the brass music arm of Exodus was launched. Jeremy Ledbetter & Cane Fire, Alexis Baro, KV Charles and the Los Alumnos de San Juan also performed.

Saturday 28th saw the 'Giants of Steel' concert at the Jean Pierre complex where Andy Narell & Sakésho, Liam Teague &

Panoramic, Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe who was celebrating his fifty third birthday, supported by a host of international musicians and the Giant Steel & Brass Orchestra featuring Phase II Steel Orchestra and the Trinidad & Tobago Police Band performed.

The highlight of the evening was the Giant Steel & Brass Orchestra playing music arranged by Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe, a scintillating performance to bring to an end to another memorable T & T Steelpan and Jazz Festival.

by: **Pepe Francis**

