

PAN EXPLOSION 2K6

...Pantasia retains their Champion Band Title!



The British Association of Steelbands (BAS) is proud to have initiated and developed this competition. Its concept is to encourage younger pannists to get involved in composing, arranging and playing musical pieces on the steelpan. 2006 saw the formation of the BAS Future Development Forum, another BAS initiative aimed at honing and developing the skills needed to prepare their younger members to undertake the responsibilities of running the Association's business.

The BASFDF were tasked with the responsibility of arranging the eight BAS Pan Explosion competition held in the Drum Centre in Aston, Birmingham on the 28th May 2006. Last year the competition was held in Portsmouth on the south coast of England and this year it was in the Midlands, yet another BAS initiative of taking this competition and the steelpan instrument to the four corners of Great Britain.

North Tyneside Steelband led by Dave Edwards was the guest band and they entertained the audience in the foyer before and during the intermission with their vibrant playing. MC on the evening was BAS

Chairman, Pepe Francis, with DJ Makili Fredricks pumping out sweet pan and soca music all night. Judges were Princess Rollock, Jason Constantine and Stephan Phillip. Anise 'Halfers' Hadeed, the guest artiste, opened the evening with some of his magical music setting the stage for the wealth of steelpan music that followed. BASFDF included a duet/trio section to the existing soloist and ensembles competition in 2006.

Justin 'Redz' Richardson on tenor opened the soloist's competition with his own composition, 'Pan Soldier', dedicated to all pan greats no longer with us - a nice introduction with a lovely structure

complimented by a good playing technique earned him second place with 243 points. Dan Sadler of Sounds of Steel followed with his composition, 'From My Window' on double seconds using four sticks. A professional 'soft touch' execution with lovely melodies saw him capture third place with 240 points. Carlene 'Sweet Wrist' Etienne of Ebony, a qualified music composer who has been playing pan for thirteen years, played her composition 'Changes' on double tenor using four sticks. A controlled well phrased delivery; full of tempo saw her attain the Pan Explosion Champion Soloist title for 2006.

Soloists Results:

- 1st Carlene 'Sweet Wrist' Etienne – 247 points
- 2nd Justin 'Redz' Richardson – 243 points
- 3rd Dan Sadler – 240 points

Croydon Steel Orchestra's Trio – Belinda Stevens on tenor, Anne Davis on double seconds and Robert Erskine on triple guitar played 'Flower Duet' by L. Del. A good balanced arrangement with nice harmonies achieved them second place with 228 points. The Ebony Duet was the Dubois twins – Samuel and Tafrina. Samuel is a qualified music teacher whilst Tafrina's love for music extend well beyond pan and is also known as House DJ 'Soul Intense'. Their own composition, 'Duality' filled with lovely melodic interchanges and good harmonics complimented by Tafrina's drumming was well received. They were crowned the Champion Duet with 264 points.

Duets/Trios Results:

- 1st Ebony Steel Orchestra – 264 points
- 2nd Croydon Steel Orchestra – 228 points.

The ensemble competition followed with Pantasia retaining the Pan Explosion Champions title. David Ijaduloa and Edward James arranged their own composition 'Bring Home Da Funk' as well as their rendition of Lord Kitchener's 'Pan in A Minor'. In second place was Mangrove. They amassed 511 points with their own composition 'El Quadico' written by Ryan Eastmond Cummings and arranged by him and Vanya Reid. Their tune of choice, Bunji Garlin's 'Fireman' was arranged by Ryan and

Levi Connell. Ebony was awarded third position with 510 points. Their own composition, 'Any Ting' was written and arranged by Kaleigh Lewis and Joshua Prescod. Their tune of choice, Michael Jackson's, 'Rock with You' was also arranged by Kaleigh and Joshua with solos from all pannists. Sounds of Steel captured fourth place with 483 points. Their own composition, 'Stand Up' was composed and arranged by Lindsay Jobling who also performed a solo with Jack Davies being the other soloist. Their tune of choice was Lord Kitchener's 'Bees Melody' arranged by Dan Sadler with all pannists having solo lines. In fifth place was Croydon Steel Orchestra with 414 points. Everyone in the band arranged their own composition, 'A Bit of This, A Bit of That' with the solo performed by Helen Gilkes. Their tune of choice was Guns and Roses' 'Sweet Child O Mine' arranged by Belinda Stevens with solos by Kerrie Hughes, Judith Daniels and Annie Davis.

Ensembles Results:

- 1st Pantasia Steel Orchestra – 534 points
- 2nd Mangrove Steelband – 511 points
- 3rd Ebony Steelband – 510 points
- 4th Sounds of Steel – 483 points
- 5th Croydon Steel Orchestra – 414 points

BASFDF now looks forward to hosting and supporting yet another highly charged and competitive explosion of pan revealing the innovative skills and talents of the many young pan musicians aspiring to explore the vast avenues of musicianship available to them.