Carnival festivals in the Caribbean have had a chequered history. However, in islands such as Trinidad, it is generally acknowledged that the arrival of the steelband in the late 1940s had a dramatic impact on carnival, elevating its status, grandeur and international recognition. Steelbands provided the momentum to underpin the spectacular artistry of the masquerade bands. In turn, steelbands drew heavily upon the inspiration of the calypsonians to the point that symbiotic relationships developed among specific groups. And, in the climax (Panorama) that ushers in carnival, it is mandatory for steelbands to compete against each other with vivid renditions of calypsos; the most popular calypso played on the road, earning the calypsonian the coveted prize of the ‘Road March’. For the calypsonian, this is a stupendous award as it represents acknowledgement of their virtuoso to compose such harmonious and exigent melodies that challenge the rich, rhythmic and intricate arrangements of the steelband as demonstrated so elegantly in the numerous interpretations of Lord Kitchener’s ‘Pan in ‘A’ Minor’.

When carnival arrived in major cities such as London, (Notting Hill carnival), Toronto (Caribana) or New York (Labour Day), it was initially driven by steelbands which stunned onlookers as these unique instruments were witnessed for the first time on streets outside the Caribbean. However, in marked contrast to the Caribbean, it is not obligatory to select a calypso for major competitions and, calypsos when played, are mostly for nostalgia. Thus, unlike the Caribbean in which there is coherence between these three elements of carnival, viz. the masquerade band, steelband and calypso, in general the development of these art forms outside the Caribbean has mostly been independent of each other. A major objective of this conference is therefore to attempt to integrate these three elements of carnival into a coherent programme that will explore the merits of this interaction and whether such a model can work outside the Caribbean.)Haroun N. Shah, Programme Organiser).

The programme will essentially follow the flow of the traditional Caribbean carnival ie. 3 half-day sessions on each of the three carnival elements and a final combined session as follows:

Session I: ‘Contemporary Calypso; Entertainment, Social Commentary and Education’

Session II: ‘Pioneering Developments in Steelpans’

Session III: ‘The Increasing Sophistication of the Masquerade and Carnival Band’

Session IV: ‘Combining the Three Art Forms’
'Integrating The Three Elements of Carnival, Steelpan, Calypso and Mas'
23-24th October 2010

Venue: University of East London, Strafford Campus

Nostalgia Steelband and the University of East London in collaboration with representatives of the ‘The Association of British Calypsonians’ and ‘The London Calypso Tent’, ‘Carnival Village’, ‘The British Association of Steelbands’ and over 10 universities are holding its 3rd biannual Conference in London. The programme is diverse and essentially explores the fusion of the major elements of carnival in 3 half-day sessions and final combined workshop as follows:

Session I: ‘Contemporary Calypso; Entertainment, Social Commentary and Education’,
Session II: ‘Developments in Steelpan Activities’
Session III: ‘The Increasing Sophistication of the Masquerade and Carnival Band’
Session IV: ‘Combining the Three Element of Carnival in Art’

PROGRAMME

Saturday 23rd October

From: 8.30 am Registration

9.45 -10.00 Programme: Aims and Objectives.
Haroun. N. Shah, Programme Organiser.

Session 1: Contemporary Calypso; Entertainment, Social Commentary and Education.

10.00 -10.30: Calypso, Steelpan and Carnival; An Overview of a Multidisciplinary Conference in 2008.
Christopher Innes, York University, Canada.
10.30 - 11.00: Calypso in the UK, Public Perceptions, Expectations and Political Impact:
Alexander-D-Great, London

11.00 - 11.30: The Impact of Carnival Arts on Early Years and Primary Education.
Celia Burgess-Macey, London

11.30 - 12.00: 'Kitch' - A Fragmented Fictional Biography of the Calypsonian Lord Kitchener: Fragmented Narratives and Liminal States in the Windrush Generation.
Anthony Joseph, Goldsmiths College, University of London.

12.00 – 12.45

PLENARY LECTURE
Documenting the Calypso Art Form and Carnival
Ray Funk, Alaska, USA

Day 1: Saturday 23rd October: 14.00 - 17.00

Session 2: 'Developments in Steelpan Activities'

Chair: Nestor Sullivan and Lionel McCalman

14.00 -14.30: Politics and the Steel Pan.
Pepe Francis

14.30 – 15.00: The History of the Pan in the UK.
Frank Rollocks

15.00 – 15.20: Development and Implementation of an Accredited Graded Examination for Steelpan.
Jacqueline Roberts, High Wycombe.

Victoria Jaquiss, Leeds.
15.40–16.10: **New Steelpan Initiatives in London and the Midlands.**
*Nostalgia Steelband (Lionel McCalman) and Steel Pan Academy (Diana Hancox).*

16.10 - 16.30 Tea Break

16.30 - 16.50: **Promoting Diversity and Innovation in British Pan Performance.**
*Rachael Hayward, City University, London.*

16.50 -17.10: **Ethnic Instruments in Engineering Education: Using the Steelpan to Ignite Interest in Engineering.**
*Soren E. Maloney¹ and Nigel Williams². University of Cambridge¹ and University of Bedfordshire².*

17.10-17.30: **Measuring the Success of Steelpan in Schools**
*Debra Romain, University of Cambridge*

**Reception:** **Workshop:** 'Behind the Scenes Construction of Mas'
17.30 - 18.30: *Paul Anderson, Colin Spalding, Noel Nanton and Team*  
*UK Centre for Carnival Arts, Luton*

**Day 2**

**Sunday 24th October: 10.15 - 13.00**

**Session 3: 'The Increasing Sophistication of the Masquerade and Carnival Band’**

**Chair:** Professor Adela Ruth Tompsett and Dr. Yoko Kimura.

10.30 - 11.00 **The African Origin of Carnival.**  
*Adela Ruth Tompsett, Middlesex University.*

11.00 - 11.30 **History and Development of the Bridgwater Carnival**  
*Chris Hocking, Somerset.*
Yoko Kimura, Nagoya University, Japan.

12.00 - 12.30  Review of the 2009 Gala – Issues for Improvement of Mas in the Notting Hill Carnival
Nestor Sullivan, Trinidad.

12.30 - 13.00  Carnival in the Big Area; Thinking Outside the Box
Keith Khan, London

13.00 - 14.30  Lunch

Day 2

Sunday 24th October: 14.30 – 16.00

Session 4: 'Combining the Three Element of Carnival in Art'

An Audience with the Artist:

Moderators: Haroun Shah, Shabaka Thompson and Robbie Joseph

Carl Gabriel – Internationally Renowned Sculptor in Carnival Arts: 'Modelling in Wire'

Dudley Dixon; Toussaint Clark and Grafton Yearwood
Pan Tuning in the 21st Century

Alexander D Great – Calypso Legend in the UK:
'Composing a Calypso'

Closing Remarks