



STAR POWER: Soca artiste Benjai (Rodney LeBlanc) dances as the Desperadoes Steel Orchestra performs his song, "Trini", on Tuesday during the panyard judging for the preliminary round of the 2011 National Panorama competition, Large Conventional Bands category. —Photo: STEPHEN DOOBAY

Pan passion in PoS

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WITH NO police escort, the Panorama judges of the Large Conventional Steel Orchestras of Pan Trinbago's Northern Region got stuck in traffic making their way from one band to another and also had to wrestle their way into packed panyards as they moved around Port of Spain to adjudicate the bands on Tuesday.

Since the panyard judging for the preliminaries began several years ago the judges, Pan Trinbago officials and media have always been escorted by police for the purpose of safety and to ensure a smooth passage to and from the panyards.

An executive member of the Pan Trinbago Northern Region told the *Express* on Tuesday that when they approached the police to make arrangements for the night's judging they were told that there was a shortage of officers on duty and therefore no escort could be provided. In spite of the challenge this posed, however, the judges managed to get to every band on the night and complete their rounds before 1 a.m.

The first band facing the adjudicators was Starlift Steel Orchestra off Mucurapo Road. Under the direction of arranger, Liam Teague, Starlift performed "In She Rainorama," a composition of DeFosto.

The convoy then headed to Phase II Pan Groove where Len "Boogsie" Sharpe and his musicians treated the crowd to a slowed down run of their tune, "Do Something For Pan," composed by Sharpe himself with Gregory Ballentyne doing lyrics sung by Sache Alexander.

By the time the judges and followers arrived at

the Queen's Park Oval where the Invaders Steel Orchestra faced the judges, the convoy had grown to several dozen vehicles. Add this to the Invaders supporters already gathered at the Oval and you had several hundreds listening to the band's rendition of "Doh Do Dat," arranged by Ardin Herbert.

Defending champions Silver Stars Steel Orchestra from Tragarate Road were heard on the pavement. The already small panyard was packed to capacity and people who attempted to find a way in had to turn around and stand on the sidewalk opposite when they realised there was just no room inside. Silver Stars played, "It's Showtime" composed by Edwin Pouchet and Alvin Daniell. As difficult as it was to hear the band out on the road, people still commented that Silver Stars "Mash up the place."

The convoy went next to Desperadoes located at Cadiz Road, Queen's Park East. The band had organised a lime to coincide with their performance for the judges and the car park turned panyard was filled to capacity. Despers played Benjai's "Trini" as arranged by the team of Beverly Griffith, Eddie Quarless and Andre Robley.

The atmosphere at Renegades Pan Theatre on Charlotte Street, Port of Spain was electric with the young pannists of the band clearly showing how eager they were to play for the judges their rendition of "How We Coming" arranged by Brian "Bean" Griffith.

The night's final stop was Hell Yard, the Duke Street home of the Trinidad All Stars, who played "Showtime" arranged by Leon "Smooth" Edwards.

The Steelband Panorama semifinals take place Sunday at the Queen's Park Savannah from 9 a.m.

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Renegades plays first

BP TT Renegades will be the first large band to face the judges on Sunday at the 2011 National Panorama semi-finals. However the first to cross the stage in the Small band category will be San City Steel Orchestra. The draw for positions took place yesterday.

There are 14 bands each in the Small and Medium category, while 16 Large bands will compete for a place in the finals on Carnival Saturday where the winning Large Band will receive \$2 million. Defending champions, Silver Stars Steel Orchestra is slated to perform "It's Showtime" in position 12.

St. Margaret's Superstars and Katzenjammers Steel Orchestras scored the most points in their respective categories in the National Panorama Small and Medium

Conventional Bands Preliminaries. The Junior Panorama winner 2009, St. Margaret's Superstars, appearing at position 11 played "Calling Meh" arranged by Shenelle Abraham, amassing 271 points.

In the Medium Band category, Katzenjammers of Tobago placed first with a total of 252 points. Their tune of choice was Edwin Pouchet's arrangement of "Wake Up." The qualifying round, which was held over a period of four days in Tobago, North, South Central and East saw a total of 87 steel bands vying for places in the semi final round. The 16 Large Bands were not judged, but still played for the judges mainly for the purpose of undergoing a band count to ensure they had no more than 100 players.

The bands will play in the following order:

BAND	SELECTION	ARRANGER
SMALL BANDS:		
1. San City Steel Orchestra	Do Something For Pan	A. Arrindell D. St. Clair
2. Fascinators Pan Symphony	My Band	Nigel Diaz/Daryl Reid
3. Southern Marine	No No No Not Me	Akino Sennon/Malomo
4. Parasitic Connection	In She Rainorama	Darren Sheppard
5. Tamara Phoners	It's Showtime	Paul Campbell
6. Golden Hands	Endless Vibrations	Vanessa A. Headley
7. Merrytones	Ruption	Selon Gomez
8. Coodrington Pan Family	Jam In de Rama	Cary Coodrington
9. St. Margaret's Superstars	Calling Meh	Shenelle Abraham
10. Tomatoes	It's Showtime	Shannon Edwards
11. Arima Golden Symphony	In She Rainorama	Tamara EJ Marcelle
12. TIPICA	Pan Palam	H&K Headley
13. Longenville Claytones	Calling Meh	Alvin Gittens
14. Old Tech Steel Orchestra	Calling Meh	Sean Ramsey
MEDIUM BANDS:		
1. Alpha Angel Harps	TKO	Sheldon Besson
2. Sangre Grande Cordettes	Calling Meh	Andes Kappel
3. Pambert	TKO	Brian Villana
4. Katzenjammers	Wake Up	Edwin Pouchet
5. Curpe Scherzando	How We Coming	Yohan Popwell
6. Steel Xplosion	Wake Up	Carlton Alexander
7. Courts Sound Specialists	Calling Meh	Ken Philmore
8. Power Stars	It's Showtime	Ardin Herbert
9. NLCB Guvconners	Calling Meh	Selon Gomez
10. Belmont Fifth Dimension	A Raging Storm	Ken Philmore
11. Carib Okieland	It's Showtime	Len Boogsie Sharpe
12. Valley Harps	Do Something For Pan	Michelle Huggins-Watts
13. Mejojans	Showdown	Amrit Samaroo
14. Pan Elders	A Raging Storm	Alvin Gittens
LARGE BANDS:		
1. Bp Renegades	How We Coming	Kenneth Guppy
2. T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps	How We Coming	Clarence Morris
3. Neel & Mussy Tded All Stars	It's Showtime	Leon "Smooth" Edwards
4. Redemption Soundsetters	Showtime	Winston Gordon
5. Solo Harmonites	Momentum	Yohan Popwell
6. Petrotrin Phase 11 Pan Groove	Do Something For Pan	Len Boogsie Sharpe
7. Our Boys	TKO	Amrit Samaroo
8. Caribbean Airlines Invaders	Doh Do Dat	Ardin Herbert
9. Desperadoes	Trini	Beverly Griffith
Eddie Quarless/A Robley		
10. Petrotrin Siparia Deltones	Trini	Carlton Alexander
11. NLCB Foncaire	Raging Storm	Ken Philmore
12. PCS Silver Stars	It's Showtime	Edwin Pouchet
13. TCL Group Skiffle Bunch	The Hill	Kath Salcedo
14. Sagcor Erosus	Calling Meh	Peiham Goodard
15. Starlift	In She Rainorama	Liam Teague
16. Birdsong	Do Something For Pan	Raphael Robertson

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