

# Carnival

## MORE PAN SONGS THAN EVER

Gary Cardinez

**T**HIS year has seen a proliferation of "pan songs" like no other. There are over 50 songs dedicated to the national instrument with several new-comers throwing their hat in the ring.

The new ones range from veteran musicians like Michael Germain and Roy Pascal of Denmark, to young musicians like Brent "Antics" Holder, Natasha Joseph, Roland Lyons and Adrian Jaikaran.

Holder's "Pan in De Pan Yard" is sung by Anselm Douglas while Jaikaran's solo project is "Pan In Front Meh Face". Nurse teamed up with Franklyn Olliviera for lyrics on her composition "Something Different" as sung by Sheldon Reid.

Germain's "Tribute to Ray Holman" with vocals by Andrew Mareano, Brother Superior, is a classic example for the younger ones to take notice and pattern their works in this manner.

Another good piece is "Carnival Time" with lyrics by Ricardo Quammie and Allan "Brother Mudada" Fortune and sung by Meshach.

The usual suspects such as Alvin Daniell, Ken Philmore Mark Loquan, Edwin Pouchet, Len Boogsie Sharpe, De Original De Fosto, Crazy, Miguel Reyes, Carwash, Earl Brooks, Amrit Samaroo, GB, Andre White, Brian "Bean" Griffith, Hamilton "The Web" Alexander and the Headley Brothers did not disappoint and have produced some musical gems.

We have not been hearing these songs on the airwaves for reasons only the programme directors of the radio stations can come up with. Case in point, Destra's soca songs are played on all radio stations but because "Calling Meh" is deemed a pan song, you have to search far and wide to hear it on the airwaves.

It is about time Pan Trinidad seek the interest of these composers who year after year make sure there is new music for the national instrument.

And with the influx of songs this year this is a good time to review the "old song" clause in Panorama. Too many good songs are left undone for those that already had their day in the spotlight.

According to GB in "Retrorama": "It cer-

**GETTING DOWN:** A Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars bassist focuses on her notes during their performance for judges in their Duke Street panyard on Tuesday night.

—Photo: STEPHEN DOOBAY



tainly stifling musical gems, the fountain of creativity running low, annually we bring brilliance. The key to panorama is the annual turnover, each year brings its own vintage and nostalgia."

With these songs playing on the radio and during the Panorama competitions at least the composers will receive some royalties for their efforts. As it stands right now they receive very little if anything for their contribution.

Pan Trinidad tried its hand at a Pan Song Competition but that did not last more than two years.

In today's Panorama semi-final seven bands will perform "It's Showtime" an Edwin Pouchet and Alvin Daniell composition which defending champions PCS Silver Stars will be playing. Trinidad All Stars have also chosen to go with this one.

Ken Philmore, Mark Lowquan and Destra Garcia's "Calling Meh" will be played six times. Songs being played three times include "Boogsie's" "Do Something For Pan", De Fosto's "In She Rainorama" and "A Raging Storm" and Brian "Bean" Griffith's "How we coming". Benjai's popular "Trini" will be played twice.