



FULL STORY

Steel Explosion tops 'em

Wednesday, February 3rd 2010

Seven Tobago steel bands are among the 45 in the bmobile National Panorama Semi finals carded for the "big yard", Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain on Sunday from 9 a.m.

They are Steel Xplosion (270 points), NLCB Buccooneers (262 points), Katzenjammers (257 points), West Side Symphony (248 points), Carib Dixieland (247 points), Our Boys and RBTT Redemption Sound Setters. No points are awarded in the large conventional band category. Only two bands who performed for the judges on Monday night did not make it to the "big yard", they were T&TEC East Side of Belle Garden and Central Symphony of Government House Road.

A Pan Trinbago media release from communications officer Angela Fox on Wednesday stated that Steel Xplosion of Mt Gomery, amassed the highest score in the medium convention category with 270 points for their rendition of "Radica" arranged by Carlton "Zanda" Alexander.

The draw for playing positions was scheduled Wednesday at 5 p.m.

On Monday night the sweet sound of steel band music reverberated from the East to the West as the 2010 Tobago leg of the National Panorama preliminaries took place at the various pan yards on the island.

The action began at the T&TEC East Side, Belle Garden Main Road Pan Theatre. The multi-time Tobago pan champs participated in the small band category with a spirited rendition of Alex Hope's arrangement of Tambu's 'Free Up'. Our Boys Pan Yard at Fort Street, Scarborough was next on show. The five times Tobago pan champs appearing in the large band category rendered a classic arrangement of Derrick Seales sung Brian Bean composition, 'Something Special'. Griffith was also the arranger of the tune.

Our Boys who are already into the National Large Band semi-final played with flair and thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the night.

Government House Road-based Central Symphony appearing in the small band category played with energy. Their tune was the Machel Montano/Len Boogsie Sharpe composition 'Magic Drum' arranged by Victor Antoine.

The action and crowd then shifted to the Patience Hill Pan Theatre where West Side Symphony

rendered a Kareem Brown arrangement of Steve Sealy's 'Somewhere in Tobago'.

The next pan action was at the Black Rock Katzenjammers Pan Tent where the medium band rendered the Eunice Peters song 'Lightning Strikes Twice' arranged by Edwin Pouchet. They exhibited quality music.

Buccoo NLCB Buccooneers then provided the pan lovers with their Panorama piece 'Surrender' by the new soca mother Destra Garcia. The arranger was Seion Gomez.

Carib Dixieland of Mt. Pleasant then delighted the energised crowd with their rendition of Steve Sealy's 'Somewhere in Tobago' arranged by Len Boogsie Sharpe.

Steel Xplosion Pan Tent at Montgomery was a sea of excitement when the medium band rendered the melodious 'Rhadica' by Kenneth Salick. Carlton Alexander was their arranger.

The night of pan concluded way after midnight with RBTT Redemption Sound Setters at their Bethel theatre rendering De Fosto's 'Pan On Fire'. The large band arranger was Winston Gordon and the 'pride of Bethel' showed that they are in prime from for the battle ahead.

Three Tobago Single Pan steel bands have also qualified for the national single pan semi finals in Trinidad. Tobago Golden Lane Panthers, Pan Fanatics and Hope Pan Groovers all made the qualifying marks when they played in their respective pan yards before the national Panorama judges on January 18.

All six single pan steel bands which played for the Panorama judges will again compete in the THA Pan Champs competition during the carnival week.
