



Despers and Zanda deliver great music

By JOAN RAMPERSAD Monday, April 26 2010

WITCO DESPERADOES, who have been National Panorama champions ten times, showed that they are a cut above the rest when it comes to commanding a stage with their performance at the Tobago Jazz Experience over the weekend..

The panmen totally thrilled patrons at "Pan Jazz In De Park" at the Pigeon Point Heritage Park on Saturday night.

The band began their set with "Paradise Gardens", then they were joined on stage by Carlton "Zanda" Alexander on the keyboards, adding an exciting dimension to their performance which included "Pan In A Minor", "Autumn Leaves" and Michael Jackson's "Don't Stop". That latter had patrons on their feet, dancing along

Despers and Zanda also did "A Night Into Tenefah" and closed with John Legend's "Ordinary People". The crowd wanted more. Unfortunately, since the show started an hour and a half late and was running well behind schedule, there was no time for encores.

By and large the entertainment for the night was exceptional but a lengthy cast of ten, with some running over their allotted times detracted from what should have been a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Despers was short and sweet and that's why they were by far the most enjoyable act of the night. However, there were other good performances on the night.

Phase II Pan Groove, led by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe had fans dancing along to their rendition of "You'll Never Get To Heaven", "Pan Night and Day", "Besame", "Lovers After All" and Boogsie's own "Magic Drum". He ramajayed throughout the band's performance, much to the delight of his fans.

The two females on the cast had patrons commenting on the beauty of their voices. First-up was Krystal Khayne, accompanied by Dane Gulstan on tenor pan, with back-up singers and dancers. She did "Hot Rush", "I Want You" and "Just The Two Of Us" Gladys Knight's "I Was Your Woman" and ended with "Kitty Kat". She was roundly applauded.

Ken "Professor" Philmore was joined by soca diva Destra Garcia who did pan songs they collaborated on with Mark Loquan. Destra also did "Colours", "Again", "Hooked" and "Rewind".

Earl Brooks had the crowd swaying to "Mi Amor" and "Perfidia", then went on to play "Steel In Blue", "Summertime" and "Panatics", accompanied by 90.1 Degrees. Also rocking the boat was Aldon Moore and Arden Herbert. Moore did "Pan Night and Day", his own composition, "Awakening", as well as "Tu Tu", "Spain" and "Blusette", while Herbert delivered "Walk A Mile and A Half", "Hello", "Autumn Leaves", "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and "The Hammer".

Tobago band Katzenjammers kept the musical action going with "To Love You More", Chuck Mangioni's "Feel So Good", Stevie Wonder's "Master Blaster", Gloria Estefan's "Conga", and closed with "That's Just the Way It Is" and "Lightening Strikes Twice".

Our Boys Steel Orchestra, the first band on stage, did nine numbers including "Moon Glow", "Imagine", "Killer Joe", "Slave" and "Never Can Say Goodbye".

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Katzenjammers' frontline pannists during their jazz performance....

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