



Exodus out Panorama finals

By Joan Rampersad Tuesday, February 2 2010

Playing in the penultimate position early yesterday morning, Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove sounded a serious warning to PCS Silver Stars, reigning National Panorama champions.

Phase II arranger Len "Boogsie" Sharpe took his "Pan Army" to Silver Stars' "Battle Zone", arranged by Edwin Pouchet, and in the end, the band from Hamilton Street, Woodbrook came out on top of the Large Band category with 277 points, leaving Silver Stars to settle for second place with 273 points in the Panorama semi-finals at Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain.

Pan Army was written by Sharpe and sung by Kernal Roberts, the son of Aldwyn "Lord Kitchener" Roberts, the late master composer of Panorama winning pan songs.

One point separated second and third placed TCL Group Skiffle Bunch who played "Pan On Fire", arranged by Keith Salcedo.

A favourite with the crowd, Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars played their arranger Leon "Smooth" Edwards' "Large Is Large" leaving some in the crowd stating after their performance, "large is really large". They were fourth with 266 points.

With only ten bands in each category going into the finals on Carnival Saturday, most noticeably dropped was Sagicor Exodus which played "Pan In the Mas" composed and arranged by Pelham Goddard. He said the band members very disappointed and could not understand why they were omitted from the finals, for which they qualified every year since 1990 to 2009. Exodus was the large band Panorama champ in 1992, 2001, 2003 and 2004.

The lone band from east Trinidad making it to the finals is the reunited Solo Harmonites which tied with Witco Desperadoes and Caribbean Airlines Invaders for fifth position with 260 points, while the RBTT Redemption Sound Setters will be the only Tobago band in the finals.

Tobago bands feared much better in the Medium Band category with five of them making the finals. Steel Xplosion came out on top with 270 points, after giving patrons at the Queen's Park Savannah a Carlton Alexander arrangement of 2009 Chutney Soca Monarch Kenneth Salick's "Radica". Placing third in that category was another Tobago band, NLCB Buccooneers playing a melodic "Surrender", arranged by Seion Gomez. In second spot was Valley Harps which produced what many in the crowd thought was the best introduction on the day. Arranger Dr Michelle Huggins-Watts outdid herself and to show appreciation, the band was given a standing ovation at the end of their thrilling performance of "Battle Zone".

Reigning champs in this category, Clico Sforzata could only muster ninth place.

In the Small Band category, Laventille Serenaders had the crowd grooving to Arddin Herbert's arrangement of "This Medoly Sweet". Placing second was Merrytones which played "Pan War", arranged by Seion Gomez, and third spot went to Crescendoes Musicale which also performed "Pan War" arranged by Curtis Edwards.

The semi-finals began early on Sunday morning and ended early yesterday as 45 bands competed for a chance to advance to the category finals: Carnival Friday, February 12, South Quay Port-of- Spain for small bands and Carnival Saturday, February 13, at Queen's Park Savannah for medium and large bands.

LARGE

1. Petrotrin Phase 11 Pan Groove Pan Army 277
2. PCS Silver Stars Battle Zone 273
3. TCL Group Skiffle Bunch Pan On Fire 272
4. Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars Large Is Large 266
5. Solo Harmonites Smooth Sailing 260
5. WITCO Desperadoes Musical Magnum 260
5. Caribbean Airlines Invaders Tell Dem 260
8. NLCB Fonclaire Rewind 259
9. RBTT Redemption Sound Setters Pan On Fire 258
10. bp Renegades Battle Zone 257
11. T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps Battle Zone 256
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13. Starlift Pandemic 254
14. Pamberi Sweetness 242
14. Our Boys Something Special 242
16. Petrotrin Siparia Deltones Pavement 238
17. Birdsong Vibes of a Mad Man 235

MEDIUM

1. Steel Xplosion Radica 270
2. Valley Harps Battle Zone 269.5
3. NLCB Buccooneers Surrender 267
4. Courts Laventille Sound Specialists Surrender 266
5. Katzenjammers Lightning Strikes Twice 263
5. Curepe Scherzando Battle Zone 263
7. Carib Dixieland Somewhere In Tobago 260
8. Couva Joylanders Smooth Sailing 257
9. CLICO Sforzata Wild & Free 254
9. West Side Symphony Somewhere In Tobago 254
- 11 Alutrint La Brea Nightingales Surrender 250.5
12. Tokyo Vibes of a Mad Man 249
13. Pan Elders I Come Out To Play 248
14. Arima Angel Harps Smooth Sailing 247.5

SMALL

1. Laventille Serenaders This Melody Sweet 267
2. Merrytones Pan War 260
3. Crescendoes Musicale Pan War 255
4. Golden Hands Dingolay 253
4. Arima Golden Symphony Smooth Sailing 253
6. Tamana Pioneers Pan On Fire 250
7. Tornadoes Battle Zone 248
8. Panosonic Connection Pan On Fire 241
9. Fascinators Pan Symphony I Music 239
9. Codrington Pan Family Pandemic 239
11. Flamingoes Battle Zone 232
12. Antillean All Stars Musical Fire 229
13. Longdenville Claytones Battle Zone 226
14. TIPICA Spreading Hands 225