

BEYOND RUM AND COCA-COLA The Radical and Creative Origins of the Steelpan



The Development Studies program of the Watson Institute, in collaboration with the Africana Studies Department and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and with support from the Brown Arts Initiative, Art at Watson, the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the Music Department, and the Physics Department, presents Pan Fantasy Steelband!

Friday, October 26, 2018

Panel Discussion

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Pan Fantasy in concert

**This project has been made possible, in part, by
the Brown Arts Initiative.**

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Center for Latin American and Carribean Studies

The Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre

And with support from Art at Watson, the Watson Institute for
International and Public Affairs, the Department of Physics, and the Mu-
sic Department.



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Set List

Breezin.....Bobby Womack.....arr
Africa.....Toto.....arr
Bailamos.....Enrique Iglesias.....arr
Dingolay.....Shadow.....arr
How Can I Leave..Dennis Brown.....arr
Sweet Love.....Anita Baker.....arr
Bridge Over
Troubled Waters....Paul Simon.....arr
Maria Maria.....Carlos Santana.....arr
I feel Good.....Beres Hammond....arr
Despacito.....Luis Fonsi.....arr

INTERMISSION

Sea of Stories.....Andy Narell.....arr
Hotel California...The Eagles.....arr
Nah Go Home.....Biggie Irie.....arr
Dancing Queen.....ABBA.....arr
Hulk.....Blaxx.....arr

All arrangements by Al Foster.

Al Foster

Pan Fantasy Musical Arranger

Al “Allos” Foster, a Toronto native, began playing the steel pan in high school. He made his debut in arranging for Pan Fantasy 15 years ago and has since become one of Toronto’s most respected arrangers. He is regarded as one of a group of young arrangers who has pushed the envelope on innovation in steelband arranging. His arrangements have positioned Pan Fantasy steelband as a musical force, not just in Canada where it has won the annual Pan Alive Competition for the last seven years, but in New York, where it is among the top tier bands performing in New York City’s Panorama.

Al also works with the Toronto District School Board as a music instructor and has been for several years. He has recently been exploring ensemble combinations of wind, brass and strings instruments with steelpans.

When he’s is not listening, playing or arranging music, Al can be found in the kitchen indulging in his other passion, cooking. His cooking prowess is on par with his musical prowess. His jerk chicken is quickly attracting a lot of fans.

Saturday, October 27, 2018
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Salomon Hall DeCiccio Auditorium

PAN FANTASY STEELBAND IN CONCERT

Pan Fantasy is Canada's most celebrated steel band. Pan Fantasy has won Canada's annual Caribana panorama championships (Pan Alive) for seven consecutive years--2012-2018. It has also received the Caribbean Music Award for best steelband in 2012 and 2013. The group has been invited to compete in New York Panorama (when?) where it place 4th but was awarded the People's Choice number one band.

Pan Fantasy is located in Toronto, a major hub of Caribbean cultural reproduction. It is part of the non-profit North York Inter-Community Youth Group, and was formed 32 years ago as part of the group's efforts to mentor young people by developing their leadership skills through involvement in the performing arts. The group, currently under the leadership of Wendy Jones and Musical Arranger Al Foster, also works closely with the Treble Clef Music School to hone students' musical skills. Pan Fantasy has 25 core members but its membership can swell to as many as 80 musicians when there are championship competitions.

Pan Fantasy Players

Giselle Bishop.....	Tenor	Tatum Prince.....	Double Seconds
Sojourner San Vicente.....	Tenor	Carl Husband.....	Four Cello (4 pan)
Nick Moore.....	Tenor	Melanie Hunt.....	Four Cello (4 pan)
St. El Bobb.....	Tenor	Conroy Williams.....	Four Cello (4 pan)
Ivor Picou.....	Tenor	Leslie Patrick.....	Six Bass
Daryl Williams.....	Double Tenors	Wendy Jones.....	Six Bass
Edwin John.....	Double seconds	Sheldon Peters.....	Percussion
Rachel Walcott.....	Double Guitars	Tony Pierre.....	Percussion
Andrew Jackson.....	Double Guitars	Moses Lewis.....	Drums Kit

Friday, October 26, 2018
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Watson Institute Joukowsky Forum

BEYOND RUM AND COCA-COLA The Radical and Creative Origins of the Steelpan

Patsy Lewis Director Development Studies, Watson Institute [Moderator]

The panelists explore the origins of the steelpan in Trinidad among the most marginal youth, in the dying stages of British colonialism and the shift to American hegemony in the Caribbean; its movement from the margins to the mainstream of Trinidadian culture; its spread beyond the Caribbean; and the science behind the instrument. The discussion complicates the image of leisure and tourism commonly associated with the instrument, which has obscured its historical context of political and economic struggles and the triumph of human creativity and will it represents.

Pan Physics

Stephon Alexander

The steel pan has inspired scientific and engineering innovation in electronic music, acoustics, and even fundamental physics. I discuss these developments and the notion that innovation in the Caribbean can be expanded to cultural and musical influences.

Stephon Alexander Physicist and Musician Stephon Alexander has straddled the two worlds of theoretical physics and jazz music over the last two decades. He obtained his Bachelors of Science from Haverford College and Doctorate from Brown and was a research physicist at Imperial College, London and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford University.

On the physics front Alexander works on the connection between the smallest and largest entities in the universe, pushing Einstein's theory of curved space-time to extremes, beyond the big bang with sub atomic phenomena. Alexander is a specialist in the field of string cosmology, where the physics of superstrings are applied to address longstanding questions in cosmology. In 2001, he co-invented the model of cosmic inflation based on string theory, a proposed unification of the forces of nature.

Petrol, Pan, and the Creative Resistive Power of a People

Zophia Edwards

In this talk, I situate the birth of the steel pan at the nexus between economy and society. I highlight how the development of the petroleum industry gave rise to a number of working class resistance movements against capitalist, imperial exploitation in Trinidad and Tobago. Often overlooked is the fact that some of the same communities that were involved in organizing mass protests for better living and working conditions during the colonial era were also responsible for inventing the pan. The once exclusively working class music was subsequently embraced by the middle and upper classes and co-opted by private corporations. Nevertheless, I emphasize that the working class creative resistive power that produced the steel pan had widespread positive impacts on the economy and society of Trinidad and Tobago and continues to shape social life in the country today.

Zophia Edwards is Assistant Professor of Sociology, Providence College. Her research examines the impacts of colonialism and multiracial labor movements on institution-building and long-term development in the Global South, with a particular focus on resource-rich countries.

Reflections on the Origins of the Steelpan, CLR James' Notes on the Plantation, and the Role of the Caribbean in the Making of Modernity

Brian Meeks

In his seminal text of Caribbean history *The Black Jacobins*, CLR James argues that plantation slavery, rather than to be seen as purely a feature of capital in its phase of “primitive accumulation”, was at the forefront of capitalist development, in terms of the scale, technology and organization of the enterprise. This applies equally to the social organization of labor, which, while decisively not free, was organized in ways that facilitated communication, cooperation and solidarity – all of the sociological requirements for a militant proletariat. James’s conclusions, of course, are that the revolt of slaves in St. Domingue and their ultimate success in the creation of the free nation of Haiti, was not to be relegated to some fluke of political nature, but, rather, placed that country and her people at the forefront of modernity and the struggle to create a new world. I reflect on James’s argument to think about the development of the steelpan in Wartime Trinidad and to suggest its symbolic importance as not simply an eccentric novelty from an obscure island of “mimic men”, to use VS Naipaul’s phrase, but a remarkable artifact of late modernity, which crosses the boundaries between music, culture and politics, to become both a broad avenue for community organization and popular self-assertion as well as a central instrument of anti-colonial mobilization. Pan, in summary, is more than it seems to be.

Brian Meeks is Professor and Chair of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre, Brown University. He is a political theorist, novelist and poet. His books include *Caribbean Revolutions and Revolutionary Theory* (1993 and 2001), *Narratives of Resistance* (2000), *Envisioning Caribbean Futures* (2007), and *Critical Interventions in Caribbean Politics and Theory* (2014). His novel *Paint the Town Red* was published in 2003 and his volume of poetry *The Coup Clock Clicks* will appear in 2018.

Pan On The Move – Steelpan across Borders

Ivor Picou

Pan On The Move looks at the presence of the steelpan in Canada from the 1950’s to 1980. It connects the migration of people from the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago in particular, and their social and cultural needs as they establish themselves in the new environment of Toronto and other large cities in post war Canada. The presentation will follow the growth from individual pan players to small bands and to the larger ensembles that are now a familiar sight in Toronto.

Ivor Picou has been a player, arranger, band organizer and advocate for the instrument and the music it is most well-known for, calypso, since 1975. Ivor is a familiar presence on the Toronto steelband scene. He has been a player with Pan Fantasy Steelband for over 25 years and is a member of the Pan Arts Network, a grouping of Toronto steelbands that stages annual steelband events. *Snowflakes on Steel*, held in January to showcase a wider range of musical arrangements by Toronto steelbands, is the Pan Arts Network’s premiere event.

Ivor also works with several youth programs in Toronto and has culturally grounded many young people in the exciting and inspiring world of steelband music. Ivor continues to give his time and expertise to the steel pan community in general and Pan Fantasy in particular. Ivor is part of the Three Trinis media group that is currently producing a documentary on the late Dr. Ellie Mannelle, considered one of the foremost innovators in the development of the form and the physical layout of the steelpan instrument. The documentary is expected to be released in 2019.

Stigmatizing Women In Pan

Wendy Jones

As A Woman in Pan and one of the only female steelband leaders in Toronto, it’s been a journey and a challenge to stay true to being a mentor and a role model in the steelpan community. I will share my experiences and challenge as a woman in the pan community.

Wendy Jones is the co-founder and leader of Pan Fantasy Steelband, which will celebrate its 32nd Anniversary this year. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her exceptional skills as a Panist. For the past 25 years, she has worked for the Toronto Catholic District School Board as a Counselor in the Elementary and Secondary Schools and as an Event facilitator at Tropicana Community Services.
