

Heavy Metal – Music for Steel Drum Band
Sunshine Steelers Steel Drum Band I
Dr. Kenneth Broadway, director

- What is a Steel Drum?

The instrument was developed in the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. The earliest instruments (1930's) were made out of biscuit tins and were convex (not concave) and were of indefinite pitch. In the mid to late 1930's, areas were shaped to produce pitches. In the 1940's **pans** (the name for the instrument in Trinidad) became concave and were larger (35 gallon drums). In 1946 Ellie Mannette made the first pan from a 55 gallon drum (the standard today). Bands performing in Trinidad's Panorama competition can have up to 100 players.

- How is a pan made?

A 55 gallon drum is cut to the appropriate length, hammered down (concave) to the appropriate depth, and then grooved and shaped to set up the pattern of notes. The notes are then "raised" to convex and the pan is "burned" over a fire or in a kiln. This burning removes toxic chemicals and causes the metal to "sing."

- How do the players learn to play?

In Trinidad the players learn primarily by rote. The arranger teaches the tune to the "section leaders", who in turn teach it to the band members. Most bands rehearse in the evenings (8:00 PM until ?). In the US, we have companies who publish sheet music, so many of the bands here read music.

- Calypso and Soca

Calypso began as a vocal form of social protest music, and was later adapted to the pan orchestra. Soca is a variation of this style. Originally bands in Trinidad performed arrangements of vocal tunes at Panorama, but now many selections are written specifically for pan performance.

Sections for today's performance include:

Allah We	Tom Miller	Pan Ramajay Productions
Jamaica Farewell	Irving Burgie	traditional
Pay One for Keith	Andy Narell	Pan Ramajay Productions
Coffee Street	Narell	Pan Ramajay Productions

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Dr. Broadway is a Performing Artist for the Yamaha Corporation, and is an educational endorser for ProMark, Sabian, and Remo.