

MUSIC MAKERS

Joe Cullen



RESOURCES FOR THE STEEL DRUM TEACHER

I just returned from teaching Steel Band at the CAMMAC Music Camp, and recently adjudicated *Panorama*. Being a visible non-Trinidadian, one question I often received was: "Where did you learn about the pan?" Since much of the information I gained was through self-directed research, I'd like to share with you a sampling of some of the better resources I have been able to find:

Books:

Blake, Dr. Felix.I.R. (1995). *The Trinidad and Tobago Steel Pan-History and Evolution*. Spain. Grafiques 85. This book is an amazingly well-researched book and is considered by many to be the "Bible of Steel Pan." It contains a thorough historical background, covers the development of the steel pan, the social, political and educational environment in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the culture of steel band music, early pioneers and inventors, tuners, pan makers, virtuosos throughout the years, arrangers, and much more. It also contains a wealth of rare photos of the earliest pans and the first pannists. Highly recommended! (Imported from T&T by Rustin Oree, 416-745-4814)

Stuempfle, Stephen. (1995). *The Steelband Movement-The Forging of a National Art in Trinidad and Tobago*. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press. The author follows the evolution of pan from a street instrument used in Carnival to its acceptance as the national symbol of Trinidad and Tobago. Covers from 1930 to the present with some fantastic photos from each main era. (Panyard Inc. at www.panyard.com)

Goddard, George "Sonny." (1991) *Forty Years in the Steelbands, 1939-1979*. Trinidad and Tobago. Scrip-J Printers Ltd. A very thorough walk through the evolution of pan with a wealth of firsthand quotations and personal anecdotes. Also gives the reader an extensive understanding of the politics of pan organizations. (Rustin Oree)

Grant, Cy. *Ring of Steel-Pan Sound and Symbol*. London. MacMillan Education Ltd. This is one of the more current pan books, covering for the first time a look at pan around the world. An excellent look at the culture of pan, and calypso lyrics about the pan movement. (Panyard Inc.)

Videos:

The Rhythm in Steel. A video of a retired doctor travelling through T&T to learn all there is to know about pan. Includes footage of *Panorama*, *Pan is Beautiful* and *Pan Ramajay* festivals, panyard rehearsals, pan making, pan tuning, pan history, the evolution of the instrument, arrangers including Ray Holman, and some wonderful footage of the great Liam Teague playing in his home at age 17. A fantastic resource for pan teachers! (Panyard, Inc.)

Dream Big: The Over-The-Rhine Steel Drum Band. An inspiring documentary of an inner-city steel drum band's formation, and development into a successful community group. Younger pannists (10 and up) making great music. (TV Image, Incorporated, Cincinnati, Ohio. 513-751-9078)

Steel Band Panorama Finals (any year). These videos capture the excitement and sheer power of many of the top steel bands competing for the *Panorama* competition. The festival occurs every Spring, and the bands are huge: 100 or

more players in each band, in costume, and playing some *very* challenging arrangements. The next best thing to being on stage with them! (Panyard)

These are just a few of the "gems" I have found useful in my pan classes, and for pan clinics and workshops. Although new pan resources come out every month, the difficulty lies in the distribution of the items. Some of my other resources had to be omitted from this list simply because they are now discontinued and unavailable. An easier way to find pan related items is through a search on the net. Literally hundreds of sites exist, selling almost everything pan-related, including mallets, pans, stands, books, videos, CDs, and cases.

Please feel free to email me at prestomusic@total.net

Joe Cullen teaches Steel Band, Concert Band, and Stage Band at the high school level. He has a Jazz Performance diploma from Humber College and Music Education degree from University of Toronto (Percussion). He has toured extensively on Cruise Ships and with the Naval Reserve National Band. He teaches over 100 pan students each year at West Humber Collegiate in Toronto and performs regularly with his own Steel Pan combo.

