



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
Media Release
Preserving culture, developing an art

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There has been a growing realization within the music community that the preservation of the work of arrangers in a form that can be accessed by literate musicians is critical to ensuring the long-term survival of these music forms. In support of this NGC recently launched its Steelband Music Score Project at Under the Trees, Hotel Normandie. The scored music in e-booklet form is the result of a project involving the recording and scoring of six songs performed by our sponsored bands over two Panorama seasons, and was a collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI). NGC also plans to continue with this initiative which will see steelband music being scored and shared with the public on an ongoing basis.

The music scoring project goes a long way in ensuring the preservation of music created for steelbands during the Carnival season. The transcription of these scores for pannists across three proficiency levels, and their compilation into digital publications are available on NGC's website and can be shared freely online. NGC's sponsored steelbands include 2020 Panorama Medium Band winner NGC Couva Joylanders, NGC La Brea Nightingales and NGC Steel Xplosion. NGC has also supported Gonzales Sheikers for several years.

According to NGC President Mr. Mark Loquan, "Several benefits can be derived from this project, all centred on sustainability. Having music scores customised for steelpan makes instruction possible outside the panyard, accessible for education and to a wider public. Anyone who can read sheet music could potentially learn to play, even independently, and this could encourage more musicians to take up the instrument, adding to the pool of players."

As a partner with the Department of Creative and Festival Arts at UWI to conduct the music scoring, Mr. Satanand Sharma, Music Lecturer and Music Unit Coordinator, took the opportunity in his remarks to support Mr Loquan's earlier comments. In his remarks at the Launch he stated, *"What are the benefits? Many-fold! Including the future of our culture, our creativity, our people's national expression. These scores can now be incorporated into tertiary level curriculum, as it will be in The UWI Music programmes."*

Guests included His Excellency Hasely Crawford, TC; Marcus Ash, Education Officer of Pan Trinbago, members of Ultimate Rejects (composers of two songs which were scored) and NGC’s CSR partners, who not only had the opportunity to celebrate a milestone in the preservation of steelband music but also to enjoy spirited performances from the 2020 National Calypso Monarch Terri Lyons and Panorama 2020 Medium Band Champions NGC Couva Joylanders.

The scored Panorama compositions scored and available to the public are:

2019		
NGC Couva Joylanders	Fire in the Area (Composer- Leston Paul)	Arranger- Stefon West
NGC La Brea Nightingales	Party Start (Composer- Marvin “Swappi” Davis & The Ultimate Rejects)	Arranger- Richard Gittens
NGC Steel Xplosion	Sing in She Party (Composer- Irwin Reyes Johnson “Scrunter”)	Arranger- Akiba Johnson
Gonzales Sheikers	Spring Garden on Fire (Composer- Ras Isley)	Arranger- Darren Shepperd
2018		
Gonzales Sheikers	Wine on Something (Composer- Austin Lyons “Super Blue”)	Arranger- Michelle Huggins-Watts
NGC La Brea Nightingales	Inside the Festival (Composer- Ultimate Rejects)	Arranger- Richard Gittens

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