

WELCOME,



For years BAS has campaigned for a venue worthy to showcase the skills and abilities of musicians and arrangers; one that will allow us to build an event that is enjoyable for the audience, attractive to sponsors and is self-financing. The UK's National Steel Band Panorama's move into Hyde Park this year not only meets those objectives but will enable us to maximise opportunities for the benefit of the bands and for pan generally.

Planning has not been without its difficulties but we are working closely with our partners to ensure the event is a resounding success. BAS extends its thanks to the Greater London Authority, Royal Parks and all other partners for their support.

Hyde Park is not the only significant occasion being celebrated this year

- The Leeds West Indian Carnival celebrates its 40th anniversary. Arthur France OBE has done outstanding work promoting carnival arts in the region and BAS wishes him continued success.
- The Junior Panorama, hosted in partnership with the Children and Parents Carnival Association, sees an increased number of bands competing for the title of Junior Panorama Champions 2007.
- BAS congratulates our European partners on the organisation of another successful Zomer Carnival in Rotterdam. This year's winners of Battle of the Drums, ABC Brass, will open the Panorama and perform at the Notting Hill Carnival as guests of the Association.

As we head into the Carnival season I appeal for the support of J'Ouvert participants. The reintroduction of J'Ouvert in 2003 was the result of years of negotiation. It is a time when steel bands reclaim the streets of Notting Hill. It is distressing that, in 2006, the actions of a small minority saw the event put in jeopardy. Participants are reminded to show respect for the bands, for themselves and for others. BAS will support the authorities in taking action against those who cause damage to individuals or their property.

On behalf of the Executive and the members of BAS, I wish you a safe and enjoyable Carnival 2007.

Pepe France