

Nostalgia



» AT THE HAMBURG ALTONA FESTIVAL

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ON THE WEEKEND OF 16TH AND 17TH JUNE, THE FESTIVAL IN HAMBURG, ALSO CALLED THE ALTONA PARADE CELEBRATED ITS 10TH YEAR OF EXISTENCE. IT IS ONE OF GERMANY'S LARGEST STREET FESTIVALS ORGANISED AND RUN BY FRITZ GLEISS AND HILKE BLEEKEN. NOSTALGIA STEEL BAND WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND ACCEPTED THE INVITATION. THIS PAN-AROUND-NECK STEEL BAND WAS ONE OF TWO STEEL BANDS THAT PERFORMED AT THE FESTIVAL, THE OTHER BEING PAN KULTUR, FROM DORTMUND, GERMANY.

➤ The Altona Festival, in the Northern German metropolis of Hamburg is a spectacular event with acts and musical renditions from as far a field as Canada, Angola, America, Ghana, Brazil South Africa, and of course Europe. Nostalgia Traditional Steel Band represented the UK with its flare and lively musical tradition that is well known at the Notting Hill Carnival. Nostalgia is one of the UK's oldest steel bands. Its tradition was founded in the streets - and the traditional pan yards of Trinidad and Tobago. The feed back from the people who attended the parade was overwhelmingly positive. They all enjoyed the splendour of a big 'pan-around-neck' steel band which was well balanced in all its sections.

Nostalgia arrived in Hamburg on Saturday morning. The band was greeted by the organisers and taken to the Altona Town Hall. There the band delivered its first impromptu performance to an audience of fellow musicians and residents. After booking into hotels and other communal boarding homes,

the band was taken to its first schedule performance - at the oldest church in Hamburg. Among the performers were five other steel bands of Germany and this made for a splendid block-o-rama in a church building, perhaps, never before seen in Europe. It was an opportunity for net-working and exchanging views, and this was also an opportunity to win the hearts and minds of the people of Hamburg. The youths of Nostalgia were particularly brilliant, performing to rapturous applause, and adulation. Traditionally, the Altona Parade gets high attention in the Hamburg Media, and Nostalgia was given its fair share of coverage, both on radio and TV. Nostalgia performed at the parade on the Sunday, and also featured on three stages in the Hamburg Music Festival Category. These open -air street and stage performances resulted in the group being cheered by a crowd of over ten thousand carnival attendees. A great time was had by all.