



# SV2G UK

## STEELPAN IN EDUCATION PROJECT

### - THE ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

➤ St. Vincent and the Grenadines 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation (SV2G), secured £78,000.00, of which £50,000.00 was invested by the Arts Council England. SV2G set up the Wycombe Steel Orchestra two years ago, and launched a unique project that started in Trinidad and Tobago in the summer of 2007. Members of the steel orchestra went

to the University of the West Indies to study the syllabus and accreditation system to pilot in the UK. As well as taking the examinations in solo steelpan performance, the members received invaluable experience and training that enhanced their teaching and leadership skills. An examiner from the University of West Indies will visit the UK to

examine the cohort of pupils preparing for the examinations in September 2008. The delegation in Trinidad and Tobago met with several faculties and departments at the University of West Indies, Pan Trinbago, various schools, Pamberi Steel Orchestra, plus several other panyards (currently known as 'Pan Theatres'), and the British Embassy.



### JACQUELINE ROBERTS

Jacqueline is the co-founder and Chairman the St. Vincent and the Grenadines 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation (SV2G). SV2G raises the awareness of African and Caribbean Heritage and Culture. She is also the Chair for Carnival Network South East England; The National Association for St. Vincent & the Grenadines Associations UK; and the Creative Director for Wycombe Steel Orchestra.

Although Jacqueline's background is one of local government, serving as a Civic Officer, Research, Policy and African and Caribbean development work, she has also trained classically on the violin. Jacqueline serves on various advisory committees for community cohesion, funding bodies, education, as well as a Governor at a Snr and Jnr school.

One of Jacqueline's current projects from her extensive portfolio is managing the UK Steelpan in Education project for SV2G and the Arts Council England. This pilot research project is to assess and create an accreditation system in the UK for the Steelpan Instrument. Jacqueline led a delegation to Trinidad & Tobago last summer to study at the University of the West Indies (UWI). Examinations were taken at the centre for Festivals and Creative Arts using the UWI steelpan accreditation system. Since then, as part of the project SV2G has an arrangement in partnership with UWI to manage their syllabus and examinations in the UK.

There is currently no national graded examination available in the UK; however this pilot project will research the possibility of an accreditation system for all to access in the UK. The project is supported by the Associated Board for the Royal School of Music, of which, a validated syllabus could see alterations made before the Board decides whether to open it to the rest of the UK.

SV2G employed the steel pan academy in Coventry to assist with their research by carrying out questionnaires to current steelbands and teachers in the UK. Numbers and levels of pupils currently learning and playing steel pan instruments in the UK were ascertained. The steel pan academy designed the questionnaire in two formats to accommodate both independent steelpan tutors/leader and head of music services at local education authorities. Preliminary findings revealed that approximately 7,350 pupils were represented by responses in the UK, out of which 2,500 are currently learning to play pan by five tutors in Manchester alone. Approximately a quarter of the sample represented currently use some form of scheme as part of their teaching. Schemes that were available to observe indicated a majority included basic musicality and pan principles. The final research of the project will not be published until the end of the project that will be towards the end of 2008.

In November 2007, SV2G held a public meeting, invited all organisations and individuals involved in steelpan in the UK to be updated on their project. The meeting concluded the need for a formation of an association of steelpan teachers and tutors. As part of SV2G's project, the formation of the association has materialised through the co-ordination of SV2G.

This project has also recognised and celebrated the creative achievements of young people, a celebration which offers encouragement to the next generation of a rich, diverse heritage of young people to continue exploring and developing their creativity.

