



ANNISE 'HALFERS' HADEED

“ I appreciate so much music it is impossible to narrow down my preferences but jazz is my greatest love and of course true calypso. ”

In the hustle and bustle of the city of Port of Spain, in the Park Street area near the Globe cinema someone was born destined for musical fame. Little did the residents of the Green Corner area realise that Annise 'Halfers' Hadeed was to become one of Trinidad's most established musicians.

➤ Annise remembers listening, at the tender age of five, to the Starland Steel Orchestra at its panyard in St Vincent street in the vicinity of 'Green Corner', which was not far from his home. He attended the Western Boys RC School on Richmond Street, and it was at this time that his interest in pan music began. He moved to Woodbrook when he was 10 and lived between the two famous steel orchestras, Invaders and Starlift. He recalls visiting both pan yards around this time and finally settled just around the corner from Invaders, the University of Pan. He remembers listening to a tune played in the Invaders panyard and returning the following day to 'pick' the tune on a tenor pan and from that time it was no turning back.

Smith. Halfers stayed at Phase 11 for some time and in 1976 done his first musical arrangement, 'I got to be free', by Denise Williams. His music started to take off and in 1978 he was part of a quartet called **Citizen** – which comprised of Michael 'Toby' Tobias on drums, Andy Phillip on bass and Raf Robertson on keyboards. The following year, Boogsie and Halfers were responsible for all the pan work on the album, *Phase 11 presents Boogsie*. The essence of this album was to promote Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe.

In 1979, he spent a month in the UK making a second visit the following year when he became involved in the formation of the **Breakfast Band** due to his earlier association on recordings



and was involved in the recording of two of their CDs in France.

He began playing for Invaders from around age eleven. At his first Panorama competition that year he played percussion and also played pan on the road for Carnival. When he was in his third year at Queens Royal College, Trinidad, he made the decision to pursue his career in music, as he saw music as his life...

After the 1973 Trinidad Carnival, Annise and other members left Invaders to form their own steel orchestra, which did not materialise. After some persuasion from his Queens Royal College colleagues, Keith Glaude, the late Chris Glaude and Gomez, Halfers joined Phase 11 Pan Groove in late '73'. Annise also confirmed that Brian 'Sayman' Parris now resident in Mexico was also instrumental in his move to Phase 11 Pan Groove. At this turning point in his career he came into contact with Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe, whom he previously in 1969 at Starlift pan yard whilst he was still at primary school. He mentions several other noted musicians who around that time was using the steelpan as a solo instrument such as Earl Rodney, Orthelo Molineaux, Robert Greenidge and Rudy 'Twolef'

with the noted drummer, Richard Bailey. By 1981, he was back in the UK working with the Breakfast Band, appearing at Jazz festivals all over Europe while being involved in recordings for a number of singles and albums for various artistes. In early 1983, he became a freelance member of the Breakfast Band and started arranging for Europe's finest, **Ebony Steel Band**. He continued this affiliation with Ebony while continuing his professional music career. Annise has arranged music for **Kalomo Kings** of Pleasantville, San Fernando, for the Trinidad and Tobago Steelband Panorama competition between 1988 and 1991 while in 1992 he did the musical arrangements for **Solo Harmonites**. He was also performing with the Martinique based **West Indies Jazz Band** during the period 1990 -94

He continued playing as a freelance musician with a quintet in Paris doing numerous gigs and recordings, while maintaining his relationship with Ebony as an arranger steering them to victory at the Notting Hill Panorama 'Champions of Steel' competition in 1988-9, 1991 – 1999 consecutively, 2001, 2005 and 2006 making him the **only steelband musical arranger to win a National Steelband competition fourteen (14) times giving him the status of the World Panorama Champion Arranger**. He was presented with an award by the Barber Green Committee for this achievement. He also arranged the test piece for Ebony in the finals of the 2000 and 2002 World Steelband Music Festivals in Trinidad which saw Ebony tie for 1st place in the test piece category with Exodus steel orchestra in 2002.

In January 1998 saw the release of an album long overdue as it was the solo debut of this renowned Trinidadian musician. It incorporates the jazz beat with the added Caribbean flavour. 'Take a Taste' the title of the album was made possible by the gathering of