



BAS/GLA

→ 7TH TRAFALGAR SQUARE PAN JAMBOREE 2008

→ The unpredictable English weather did not affect six top UK steelbands from appearing at the British Association of Steelbands (BAS) 7th annual Steelband Jamboree in Trafalgar Square. Over the past years BAS has fully supported both Mayors of London in taking this iconic venue, Trafalgar Square, to another level to be fully appreciated and enjoyed by local and national communities as well as global tourists.

Sunday 03rd August 2008 saw the sky covered in dark clouds with a threat of rain showers but this did not deter the pan musicians and coupled with the ambience of the square and crowd appreciation, the square was transformed into an electric atmosphere. The sweet strains of sweet steelband music filled the air with renditions from all genres which saw people dancing everywhere on the Square. Even when the heavens opened and the showers came the steelbands continued playing.

Trafalgar Square was transformed into a Steelpan Village. Southside Harmonics, CSI, CSO, Comets, Harlow and Metronomes steel orchestras entertained the crowds of visitors, tourists and supporters. The orchestras were dotted around the lower level of the Square and it was not unfamiliar to see the crowds drifting from orchestra to orchestra as they played alternatively.

Caribbean Steel International Community Group Steel Orchestra appearing for the first time at this

event positioned to the left of Nelson's Column certainly treated the crowds to some lively and melodic music. Brent Holder has certainly done a wonderful job with his young musicians. Southside Harmonics' young and capable players delivered a varied repertoire of some heart rendering tunes that pleased the crowds immensely. Julian Gibbs continues his musical journey to develop



his young and capable players into skilful and talented pannists.

Harlow Steel Orchestra positioned at the north east section of the Square was also making their first appearance at this event. They certainly had the audience dancing to the sweet sounds of steel. Their young pannists dished out

some catchy renditions which received lots of compliments. Samuel Dubois has done some inspiring work with these young pannists.

Metronomes positioned at the foot of Nelson's column, led by Eversley 'Breeze' Mills with the gifted Kyron Akal responsible for their musical arrangements certainly treated the audience to musical treat. Captivating the crowds with their wide repertoire, their submission to the public's request for more saw their performance surpass the scheduled time, the Square's heritage warden had to call a halt to their performance.

As is traditional, Liz, the event flag woman, could be seen proudly waving her Trinidadian flag in front of each band throughout their performances. BAS/GLA has hosted yet another successful Steelband Jamboree filled with a wealth of steel pan music. Don't miss the 2009 BAS/GLA Trafalgar Square Pan Jamboree



Pan 4 Life