

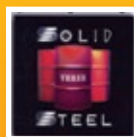
CD REVIEWS

A pick of the BEST



Bima continues to build on his musical offering to the world and presents this high quality recorded product. Simple and uncomplicated Spanish as well as American folk music influence within the body of work. Track 4, 'Tarn' is a good example of this. A great CD to own! Thirteen tracks of delightful music. I immediately added it to my library.

Bima Tapas



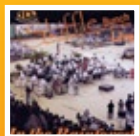
Nostalgic is the first word that comes to mind while listening to this CD. It is important not to forget in this digital era where everything is recorded and tweaked to the highest quality that a basic approach can sometimes be so refreshing. A three pan ensemble recorded with the original flavour that anyone who plays or has played the steel pan instrument will appreciate. Back to Basics is the message.

Solid Steel Three



A selection of twelve musical tracks produced by two great musicians, Robbie Greenidge and Ralph Macdonald. Released through Antisia Records, the music is warm and romantic like the Caribbean itself. Well recorded, well executed, the combination of Macdonald's percussive genius and Robert's mesmerising expertise with the pan instrument can only result in a must have production. A great CD filled with good music and great musicianship. Another collector's gem!

Robert Greenidge From the Heart



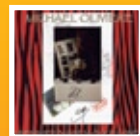
An all live collection of seven songs played by Skiffle Bunch from 1998 – 2001. The quality of the live recordings is questionable but the content and use for referencing musical greatness is invaluable. The seven tracks were arranged by Len 'Boogie' Sharpe, Annise 'Halfers' Hadeed, Godwin Bowen, and Rachel Hayward.

TCL Skiffle Bunch In the Rainforest



The long awaited first offering from Johann, recorded in 2007 and aimed at the Xmas season. He successfully navigates through Caribbean versions of 'I'll be there for Xmas' then to a lovely parang composition, 'Ave O Maria Ave' featuring the renowned Luces Brilliantes Parang Group. A successful project that leaves its audience eagerly awaiting more music from this young, gifted and talented musician.

Johann Chuckaree A Sweet Touch of Christmas



Pan Tuner, Calypsonian, Musical Arranger, Composer, Singer cum all round musician, Michael 'Bubbles' Oliviere has released his long awaited CD. Eleven tracks of original music all composed by him. The lyrics of each track contain some important life messages with the first track being dedicated to the steelpan. This production certainly reveals Bubbles's musical versatility and we now look forward too much more of his music.

Michael 'Bubbles' Oliviere Unfinished Business/ Soon Come



SummerTyne STEEL PANDANGO

Sitting on the banks of the River Tyne in the North East of England, Newcastle and Gateshead are closely linked – by seven bridges – and have been dramatically transformed into a new vibrant, cultural and cosmopolitan destination. The Sage Gateshead is an international home for music and musical discovery, bringing about a widespread and long-term enrichment of the musical life of the North of England. Sage Gateshead inclusive approach enables all their performance, learning and participation programmes to be constantly inspired and supported by each other.

Steel Pandango held on the 19th July 2008 was part of SummerTyne's opening

weekend - 18th – 27th July 2008. A fantastic summer slice of the Caribbean on Tyneside featuring a plethora of the region's steel bands performing in the open air of Performance Square. One of a huge programme of events and activities for the whole family to enjoy throughout the festival. Pan Dango featured Silver Intermediate Steel Band, Silver Advanced Steel Band, Newcastle All Stars, Tremors, Sunshine Panners, Steel Quake and Volcano.

SummerTyne's ten-day summer festival on NewcastleGateshead Quayside featured Sinéad O'Connor, k.d. lang, Martha Wainwright, the Neville Brothers, Allen Toussaint, Northern Sinfonia, Eve Selis, Brandi Carlile,

Mayra Andrade, Antonio Forcione, a VAMOS Latin Dance Party, Rogue's Gallery – Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs, Chanteys with special guests, Capoeira, steel pan and salsa workshops, an Americana weekend, exhibitions, film screenings, family activities, free outdoor stage and much more...plus a celebration of the building of an eighth bridge across the River Tyne by Australian artists, Bambuco. For more information about Sage Gateshead visit - www.thesagegateshead.org / 0191 443 4661

Thanks to **Rachel Edwardson**
Photos by **North News and Pictures**