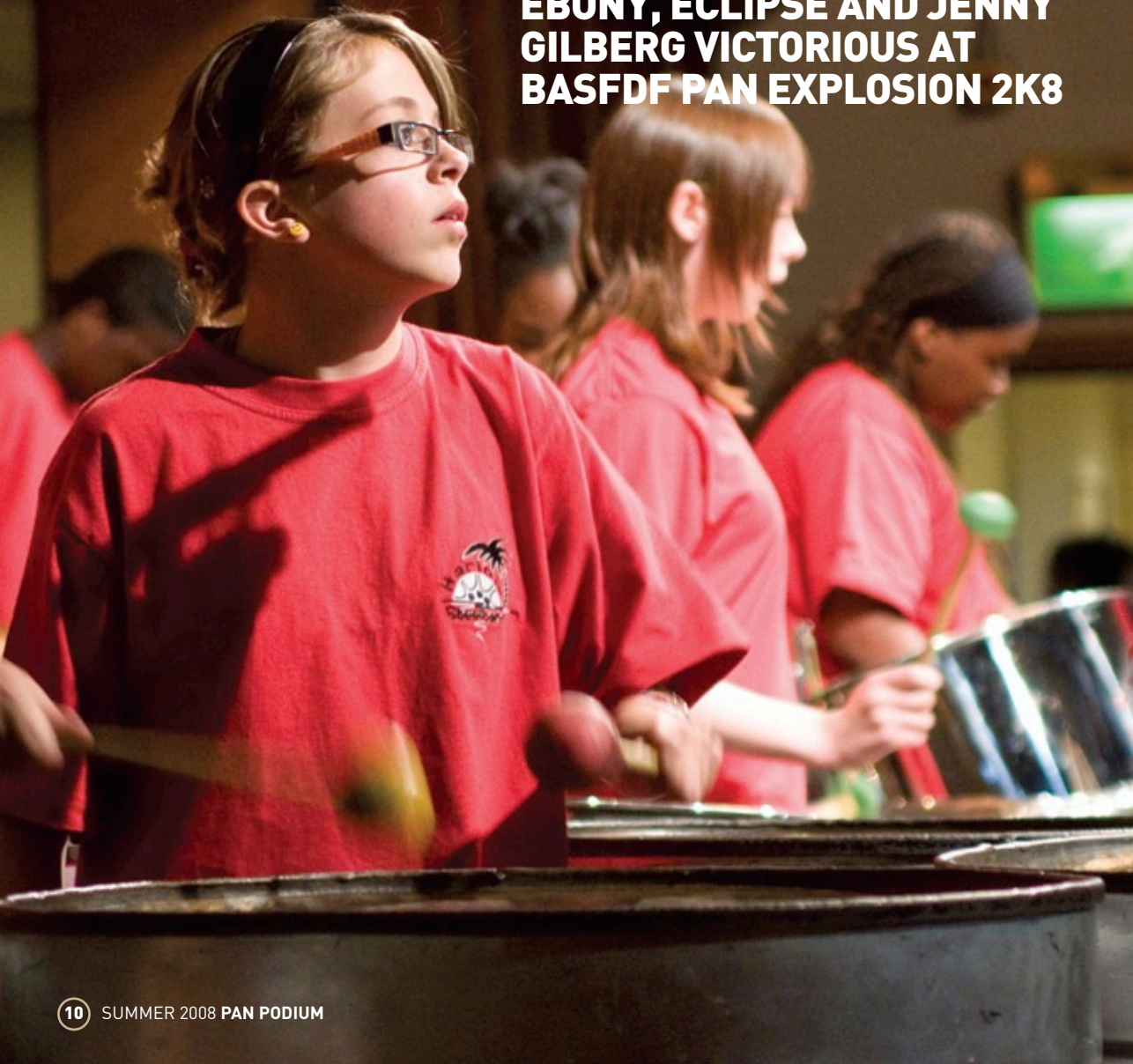


PAN EXPLOSION 2K8

EBONY, ECLIPSE AND JENNY GILBERG VICTORIOUS AT BASFDF PAN EXPLOSION 2K8



The BASFDF 9th annual Pan Explosion held at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon, Surrey on Saturday the 31st May 2008 was certainly blessed with lots of warm weather coupled with a high standard of steelband music. Pannists as young as seven (7) competed against their older counterparts for the Ensembles title. The overall winner on the night was steelband music as the versatility of the instrument and dexterity of its players certainly treated the audience to a musical explosion of steelpan music.

➤ Before the start of the event, CSI Community steelband hosted a typical Trinidadian style jam session in the car park with bottles and spoons, scratchers and any other paraphernalia that created some percussive rhythm. World renowned steelpan manufacturer/tuner, Dudley Dickson, along with Tubbs, Chato, Brent Holder, Jason Constantine and lots more had a very hectic free styling percussive jam session setting an electric atmosphere for the start of the event.

Pan Explosion is about the promotion of excellence. In its simplest form it is the commissioning of new music and the promotion of the UK's steel pan virtuosos and this year's competition featured musicians from across the UK. Its secondary role is to provide the emerging and future leaders of the UK's steel band movement, BASFDF, a platform from which they can enhance and develop

their management skills and share with the wider steel pan community their vision for the future of the instrument not only in the UK but also in Europe and beyond.

Guest artistes were Harlow steelband and soloists, Dan Sadler and Kyron Akal. Whilst the judges on the night were Tamara Arom-Hobbs, Debby Romain and Dan Sadler who was replaced by Chris Storey for the Over 25 Ensembles competition owing to illness. After the event yet another 'liming session' ensued by hard core 'Limers' who did not want the evening to end. Everyone is now looking forward to the 10th Pan Explosion in 2009.

BAS Executive Officers and members of the Association extended their thanks to all guest artistes and competitors for the time and energy they spent preparing for the event, as well as BAS partners, Carnival Village and Fairfield Halls for their support and most particularly, to the audience.

ENSEMBLES UNDER 25

Contrast Steelband - consists of roughly 20 players ranging in age from 13 to 40+. They were formed in 1974 by Cy Jacques who has now retired and emigrated back home to St Kitts & Nevis leaving management of the band in the capable hands of Pat Munroe.

Croydon Steel Orchestra - This is Croydon's fourth time taking part in Pan Explosion and the third time for Kerrie, Annie and Leanne. For the other members, this is their first time entering except Charlotte who also participated in two rounds of 'Pan Clash' last year.

Ebony Steelband - This band of under 25 year olds have been together for three years and have come a long way since their novice beginnings. This is the first time these musicians have entered Pan Explosion and are already looking forward to many more.

Ebony Steelband Protegez - 'Protegez' was set up in 2008. Tutors Candice (23) and Joelle (19) teach the band once a week. All performers are under the age of 14 and this is only their third ever performance.

Results: Ebony Steelband - 490

Contrast Steelband - 456

Ebony Steelband Protegez - 382

Croydon Steel Orchestra - 373

ENSEMBLES OVER 25

CSI Community Group - Caribbean Steel International (CSI) Community group, lead by Brent Holder, is a voluntary run steel band based in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham.

Eclipse Steelband - Formed in 1980 and was led by Dennis Osbourne, today Mark 'Tyson' Williams is the leader of the band and his musical arrangements has seen them capture second place in the 2007 BAS/CAPCA Junior Panorama competition.

Results: Eclipse Steel Orchestra - 534

CSI Community Group - 498

SOLOISTS

Charlotte Benson - Croydon Steel Orchestra

Charlotte has been playing pan for six years. She started on Double Seconds then moved briefly to Double Guitar and Bass before settling on Tenor.

Jenny Gilberg - North Tyneside Steel Band, Newcastle - Jenny has been playing pan for just over eight years. She is a member of North Tyneside Steel Band and also plays with the North East of England regional band, Volcano

Results: Jenny Gilberg - 245

Charlotte Benson - 183

GUEST ARTISTES

Harlow Steel Band was established in 2003 as a community drop-in activity for children and adults supported by Harlow Council, Ebony Steelband and Essex Youth Service.

GUEST SOLOISTS

Kyron Akal is an ardent supporter, competitor, champion soloist, arranger and judge at Pan Explosion.

Dan Sadler currently plays and arranges musical pieces for Sounds of Steel - Portsmouth. Dan has been a competitor in Pan Explosion competing in both the soloists and ensemble sections.