

arranged tempo driven rendition of 'Sharing Licks' by Ken 'Professor' Philmore.

Chris Storey's musical rendition of Amrit Samaroo's, 'Band from Space' saw Pantasia in fifth place with 252 points. This was Pantasia's second appearance at this competition and they are making steady progress. Sixth place went to Real Steel from Plymouth. Leroy Clarke's musically arranged, 'Band from Space' saw their vibrant delivery achieve 246 points. Paul Dowie continued to instill a great sense of competitiveness in Croydon who followed closely in seventh place with 245 points. Eight position

went to Glissando who played a Rudy 'Two Lef' Smith's melodic arrangement of 'Band from Space' with 228 points whilst Southside Harmonics who played 'Sharing Licks' musically arranged by Eustace Benjamin was awarded ninth place with 211 points.

Nine outstanding UK steel orchestras fully entertained the audience on the evening with a wealth of steelband music and equally great teamwork. The British Association of Steelbands now looks forward to their 30th Champions of Steel competition in 2008 and is already looking at improving this iconic event to make it more spectacular.



Results:

BAS/CAPCA Junior Panorama Competition

Place	Band	Tune	Pts
1st	Croydon Steel Orchestra	I Dare You	47
2nd	Eclipse 2000 Steel Orchestra	Band From Space	46
3rd	Comets Youth Steel Orchestra	Symphony On De Street	44
4th	Pan Ultimate	Carnival Come Again	36

BAS 29th National Panorama Competition

Place	Band	Tune	Pts
1st	Ebony Steelband	Sharing Licks	264
2nd	Stardust Steel Orchestra	Sharing Licks	263
3rd	Mangrove Steelband	Sharing Licks	257
4th	Metronomes Steel Orchestra	Sharing Licks	255
5th	Pantasia Steel Orchestra	Band From Space	252
6th	Real Steel	Band From Space	246
7th	Croydon Steel Orchestra	Band From Space	245
8th	Glissando Steel Orchestra	Band From Space	228
9th	Southside Harmonics	Sharing Licks	211

BAS J'Ouvert Bomb Competition

Place	Band	Tune	Pts
1st	Ebony Steelband	My Way	166
2nd	London All Stars	Wonderful World	156
3rd	Real Steel	I Don't Want To Know	156
4th	Caribbean Steel International	Lawway	128

Tropical Rhythms Best Steel Band on the Road

Place	Band	Tune	Pts
1st	Ebony Steelband	Lately	174
2nd	Metronomes Steel Orchestra	Ah Going Home	168
3rd	Comets Steel Orchestra	Fire Storm	158
4th	Southside Harmonics	We Love Carnival	156
5th	Pan Necktar	Just Can't Go On Like This	146
6th	Croydon Steel Orchestra	Soul Limbo	143
7th	Nostalgia Steelband	Hammer	141
8th	Glissando Steel Orchestra	Always On My Mind	138
9th	Real Steel	Don't Matter	135
10th	Caribbean Connection (Switzerland)	Unknown	132



EXTREM NORMAL - NORMAL EXTREM

>> The extraordinary Swiss steelband with all kinds of handicapped people.

In 1998, Carola Bestgen founded with the support of the Swiss Association for people with disabilities, this unusual steelband with mental, body and sight disabled players.

Their thirty (30) players come from different institutions and meet for weekly practice sessions, in an old brick brewery next to the river in Berne. The steelband performs regularly at companies' events, institutions, schools, universities, society clubs, cities and private parties. Even one of the seven top officials of the Swiss government, "Bundesrat Schmid", played a guitar pan at an official event with this extraordinary steelband. Thanks to the money earned from all these concerts, Carola Bestgen can finance part of the teaching and tuning costs and purchase the necessary instruments and equipment.

Carola stated, "The steel pan-courses are not only developing teamwork but also the quality of life and the self-confidence of every single handicapped player. Even their joy of living is enhanced with a sense of belonging. They play simple tunes with great enthusiasm coupled with body and soul deliveries that fuels an electric atmosphere - straight into the hearts of their audiences. The public is completely amazed by the power of their playing, joy and courage that they project. Differences between people with disabilities and those without disabilities are overcome, thanks to the power of steel pan music!"

Extrem Normal - Normal Extrem steelband will celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2008. They will also be afforded the opportunity to play at the final ceremony of the 2008 Special Olympics, as well as at official events for the UEFA Euro

2008 in Berne.

Carola Bestgen confirmed, "For me all these steel pan musicians with disabilities are the heroes of daily life. I think that we can learn a lot from their spirit of living. It is a great pleasure and honour teaching them and it brings a lot of satisfaction into my own life!" Carola Bestgen is also an enthusiastic pan-player and got her inspiration from playing at the London Notting Hill Carnival and the world renowned Trinidad Carnival. She also performed at the European Festival in Paris, T&T World Steelband Festival

and New York Panorama competition.

For more information on this unique steel band please contact: Carola Bestgen, Musik Bestgen, Uferweg 42C, 3013 Berne-Schweiz. Email: info@musikbestgen.ch In 2007, Extrem Normal - Normal Extrem steelband won two awards: "The Innovation Award 2007" from the Raiffeisen Bank of Switzerland as well as the "1st Samaritan Award 2007" from the Swiss Social Association.

By Carola Bestgen

