



CARIBBEAN STEEL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY GROUP

Caribbean Steel International was originally formed in 2004 with three members. After obtaining invaluable experience from working with some of the top steelbands in the UK, Trinidad and Japan, they decided it would be a great idea to form a small group to do gigs owing to the demand for 3 or 4 piece steelbands. After ensuring that their small steelband was well established on the giging circuit CSI founding members decided to start a community group that would involve their local communities in the steelpan artform.

After investing a substantial amount of time and effort, Caribbean Steel International (CSI) has opened a community group steel band in the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London. Their classes are aimed at giving the public the opportunity of learning about, and how to play the steelpan instrument.

There were many reasons why CSI, now a four piece professional steel band, decided to run these classes. Brent Holder, CSI's manager who teaches the art of playing the steelpan in Hammersmith and Fulham schools, realised that pupils suddenly found themselves with no place to continue these classes when they had left school. In addition, there are many people in the surrounding communities who never had the opportunity to learn how to play this wonderful musical instrument.

CSI felt that the classes would be especially beneficial to those who are disabled, socially excluded and an advantage for the youths in the borough as it would keep them off the

streets and teach them a culture they may not already know about, also giving them the opportunity to enhance their teamwork skills and take pride in themselves and what they can achieve.

Community Group members can look forward to performing their new repertoire of music at gigs and various steel-pan events held throughout the year. Along with exciting classes, there is also the great opportunity to enter steel pan competitions. CSI will also be visiting organisations, schools and institutions to conduct workshops for those groups who are unable to attend their weekly sessions.

There has been so much interest shown for these community classes that they now have a waiting list. If you ever wanted to try the steel pan or have played this instrument in the past and would like to get back into it, now is a great time to start. The classes run weekly, everyone is welcome from age 8 - adult. Contact Brent on 07932 400 166. For more information check out www.myspace.com/csiuk and www.brentholder.com



CSI Tutors

Brent Holder is one of the world's no.1 steel pan soloist, arranger, tutor and composer. Brent has also performed the duties of adjudicator for the UK Junior Panorama 2006/2007, Croydon Music Festival in 2006, and The Music for Youth School Proms 2006/2007.

Michael Toussaint is registered blind and is the only blind steel pan musician and teacher in the UK. Michael has competed in many steelband competitions and music festivals in the Caribbean, Europe and US, and also played the lead tenor track on the official World Cup 1998 song 'Carnival de Paris'.

Jason Constantine began playing steel pans from the age of 12 and has performed throughout Europe and the Caribbean. He has also worked as an arranger, conductor and teacher in Trinidad and London with bands taking part in Panorama competitions and steelband festivals. Jason currently teaches the steel pan art form in schools.

Ricky Dickson took part in the first national festival in London at the age of 10 and has traveled the world playing steelpan and drums including playing along side the BBC Concert Orchestra. He has taught at workshops and schools, and has been instrumental in bringing steelpan to parts of the world where the instrument is not known. He is an inspiration to his drumming students.