

The Caribbean All Stars Steel Band

The Caribbean All Stars Steel Band was formed in 2004 by Trinidadians Farai and Tafara Masaisai. The band itself was formed while these two brothers were pursuing their law degrees in London. To date, the band can be found performing throughout Europe, the UK and the Caribbean while these two sons of the soil are practicing Attorneys-at-Law, in the UK and Trinidad & Tobago.

Farai is the band leader and first became involved with the steel pan instrument back in 1998, when he performed and won the Trinidad and Tobago Junior Panorama competition in Port of Spain, Trinidad with the band WoodTrin. It was a partnership between Woodbrook Secondary School and Trinity College Moka, the latter being where Farai is a proud Alumnus. When Pan Podium enquired about Farai's reason for getting involved with the steel band, he confirmed, 'Fondly I remember the main reason I joined the college's steel band was to be able to socialise with the girls from Woodbrook Secondary School as Trinity College was an all boys' college.'

It was this encounter with Trinidad and Tobago's national instrument in the 1998 Junior Panorama Competition that sparked Farai's love affair with the steel pan. In 2004, the two brothers arrived in the United Kingdom with the ambition of one day becoming respectable members of the Honourable Law Society of England & Wales. With not much money in their pockets but a love for music and a unique and rare talent to play any type of steel pan, the two brothers began busking in London's West End. Farai said, 'We would go to class from 9am-3pm and then from 5pm-7pm we would go busking that's how we spent most of our days. We saved the money which was then used to help pay our University fees.'

Farai found his first music agent while playing the steel pan outside the Ritz Hotel in London. His name was Steve Allen and he together with Farai's uncle, John Thomas, taught him the ins and outs of performing professionally in the UK. The Caribbean All Stars Steel Band was formed with the objective of promoting Trinbago culture throughout Europe, they see themselves as Ambassadors for the National Instrument and with every performance they strive

to represent Trinidad & Tobago in the most positive way through music. The music they play is rooted in traditional Calypso, reggae, jazz and rhythms which transform any atmosphere into an island in the sun climate

He confessed, 'steel pan music touches your soul, when I see the appreciation and smiles on my clients' faces upon hearing us play; it makes me happy that I am able to share with them what we in Trinidad have at our door steps, Paradise'.

In 2008, The Caribbean All Stars Steel Band launched their website www.mysteelband.com. It allowed them to break into different European markets and perform for audiences as far as Finland. Launching their website was their way of coping with the global recession and continue to be effective.

One of their most fascinating performances was for the Launch of the Nintendo Wii game, 'Sports Resort' in 2009; they helped set the scene for numerous Nintendo franchise owners throughout Europe. They travelled a lot for these performances and gained invaluable experience. The Caribbean

All Stars steel band is affiliated to numerous charities, the main ones being the Diorama Arts Charity based in Euston, London and the All Saints Anglican Church based in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Their membership include Farai who is a practicing attorney-at-law specialising in the field of sports law. His favourite steel pan is the tenor pan and has performed at both the Trinidad and Nothing Hill Carnival Panorama competitions. Tafara is also a practicing attorney specialising in civil litigation and plays the bass pans.

Thandiwe is presently completing her final year of her law degree. She plays both the bass and the lead tenor pan. She is an astute musician having studied music for four years. John Thomas has been performing throughout Europe and especially the UK for the past 40 years. John not only performs but also teaches in five primary schools throughout London. Trishauna Scarlett joined the band in 2005; she is a distinguished tax consultant based in Tunbridge Wells and plays the bass pan as well as an array of percussion instruments.



The Caribbean All Stars Steel Band
promotes the Trinidad & Tobago culture on a truly international scale.
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