



Musical Director of Stardust Steel Orchestra, Lucy Cavendish Liberators Steel band at Cambridge University, Oasis Academy Steel Band, Enfield and Twyford School Steel Orchestra. When given the opportunity she has arranged several musical pieces for the Mangrove Steel band where she has been a member since the late 1990's.

Teaching the art of playing pan has played an important role in her life. Since 1999, Debra was based in the 'Carnival Village', Tabernacle, Powis Square, London and has been teaching the steelpan art form as part of the Mangrove steel band's education programme. She has taught a range of students, some as young as five. Her role as an arranger of the Mangrove Junior steel band has seen them achieve Junior Panorama titles in 2000, 2002-05, TV appearances/documentaries on BBC, ITV & Disney Channel, performances for The Dioceses of Trinidad and Tobago and runners up in 2006 BAS Pan Explosion competition. Debra has gone on to judge both Junior Panorama and Pan Explosion competitions several times.

Since 2007, Debra is very proud to have played in the Trinidad and Tobago's National Panorama Final Competition with the Phase 11 Pan Groove Steel Band led by the legendary Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe, 'the Mozart of Pan'. He is a personal friend and mentor who has inspired and influenced Debra along the way. When asked about her future aspirations Debra stated, **'I want to continue teaching, playing and arranging music on the steel pan so that the culture continues to grow and develop as it is a fairly young instrument being the one of or the only acoustic instrument to be invented in the 20th century.'**

Currently, Debra has started her own business offering tuition to students of all ages who wish to develop their pan playing skills. She also offers the opportunity for GCSE & A Level music students to work on composition and scoring their pan music which is being advertised on the Wedge Card site promoting local businesses in RBKC.



Ladies of Steel is the new focus for Debra and the Cambridge University group, it is an all steel, all female orchestra and will be undertaking various orchestral pieces on the steelpan. Ladies of Steel will be working with operatic singers and classical musicians to create a new dynamic steel experience attracting new audiences to the steelpan art form.



Debra stated, 'I am honoured to have the opportunity to pioneer yet another project which will expose the Trinidad and Tobago's national instrument to a wider audience. As a British youth of Caribbean heritage it was imperative for me to have this education growing up as a minority in the UK. It is important to me that pan is valued and respected as a musical instrument and obtains an equal place in higher education alongside other musical instruments.'