

# pan reader's podium letters

From South Carolina, USA  
Hey Pan Podium,

I recently obtained a copy of your magazine, Issue 20, and was very impressed by its quality and contents which is both informative and educational. I saw that you were celebrating the magazine's tenth anniversary and I would like to congratulate you on an excellent production highlighting the steelband culture globally. Wow, you guys have really worked hard to ensure that the steelband culture continues to be in the limelight and promoted globally. I also noticed that you work closely other media partners like When Steel Talks, great stuff. Your magazine is also a great medium and an effective networking tool that puts people together who love the fantastic world of steel. I have registered to be on your mailing list for future issues and look forward to it with great expectations!

Nigel Wilford  
South Carolina, USA 

From Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire, England

Hello Pan Podium,  
I am a lover of books as reading is one of my obsessions. I came across your magazine and would like to thank you for educating me on the steel pan culture as I was brought up in rural England where there was no interaction with the instrument. Since then I have invested in purchasing some steel pan CDs and find the sound very fascinating. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for introducing me to this wonderful musical genre. As I play the piano I have tried to reproduce some of the music, reharmonising and improvising as I adopt the different beats. The music is exhilarating and also captivating. I find it hard to tear myself away to do my household duties when I am sitting at the piano listening and playing along with the music. Thank you very much for the inspiration. I am now looking at purchasing a steel pan.

Catherine Paul  
Lincolnshire, England 



From Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago

Pan Podium - Is Yuh Buoy Akee!

Yuh know how yuh buoy does be lookin out for every edition of yuh magazine. So far you haven't let meh down and reading bout meh local culture does make meh heart skip beats. The rest of de world really tekkin we ting and showing we what a great ting that Trinidadians have given to de world. Buoy the hair does raise on my body when I think how much licks ah used to get fuh going down in de pan yard and now they playing pan in all them big places like Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden. Buoy yuh see how time, effort, dedication and mostly commitment does really break down barriers and achieve yuh goals.

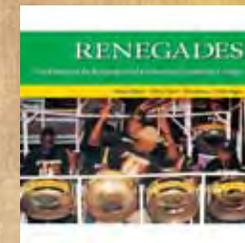
Listen nah ah must extend my most gracious gratitude for all de hard wuk all yuh doing in promoting we culture to the world. Pan Podium yuh is doing we country proud wid yuh magazine, it showing ah positive ting especially wid all the wrong things going on in de place now. Keep we flag flying high!

Ricky 'Akee' Ashton  
Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago 

#### Contact Pan Podium

Have you got something to say about this magazine or the pan industry in general? If so, please send your comments to **British Association of Steelbands**  
The Tabernacle, Powis Square, London W11 2AV  
or email them to [robbie@panpodium.com](mailto:robbie@panpodium.com)

## book review



### Renegades The History of the Renegades Steel Orchestra of Trinidad & Tobago

Kim Johnson, Helene Bellour, Jeffrey Chock,  
Milla Cozart Riggio

This book takes you on BP Renegades' remarkable yet captivating journey through the decades of their existence highlighting their outstanding achievements along the way. The steel pan is the great success story of acoustic musical instruments in the twentieth century. It begins just before World War II, when Carnival processions in Trinidad began knocking rhythms on bits of metal, dustbins, pots and pans. Within a decade and a half the same gangs, now called steelbands, were playing Chopin and Beethoven, mambos and jazz, and of course calypso. Renegades tells the story of the steelband movement in words and images, focusing especially on the history of one which, perhaps more than any other, has come to symbolise the success of steelband music: **The Renegades**. This is the remarkable story of a youth gang's descent into violence, and their heroic climb out of it and into musical excellence. Responsible for this publication are Helene Bellour who teaches French and works as a freelance translator and editor in Chicago. Jeffrey Chock a professional photographer in Trinidad where he was born. Kim Johnson, an established journalist and researcher and Milla Cozart Riggio is James J Goodwin Professor of English at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. Great reading for any steelpan enthusiast.

## CD reviews

Behind The Bridge - Andy Narell

His 9th album as a leader, Narell capitalizes on his previous Pan Jazz work successfully incorporating Latin rhythms with the beautiful tones of the steelpan. The dedicated title of the album, 'Behind the Bridge', refers to the lower east side of Port of Spain, Trinidad home of the Orisha religion, culture and drumming and is one of the birthplaces of the steelpan. Only one of the songs, the haunting 'Sea of Stories' is a Narell original; the rest of the CD finds him interpreting songs by composers from Cuba and Brazilian gems like Ivan Lins' 'Madalena' and Pixinguinha's 'Lamentos'. At a time when jazz was often accused of having lost its innovative spirit, Narell is still proving himself to be a very imaginative risk-taker.

Modern Steelpan Sound: Rhythm and Steel - Martin and Martin

High end music production and recording which allows this album room to breathe easily and affords its listeners to benefit from that breath of fresh air. Eleven tracks of glorious music with all arrangements by Martin Richard Lehner. Martin Grah and Martin Lehner have certainly embarked on new musical avenues with the steelpan in this co-production by these two Swiss musicians. The music revolves around a new and modern role depending on the steelpan's interaction with other conventional instruments and Cuban percussion. The famous Earth Wind and Fire's, 'In the Stone,' opens the album, setting its precedence and finishing with Billy Ocean's, 'When the going gets tough'. Truly a pleasure to listen to!!

Groovin - EXTEMPO Steelband

This album contains thirteen tracks of excellent musical arrangements and good musicianship. Studio recorded it is very well executed. Swiss based EXTEMPO steelband led by Martin Grah have produced a product they can be proud of. From, 'Annie I'm not your Daddy' to 'Kitchener's Sugar Bum Bum', EXTEMPO takes you on a musical journey incorporating a wide variety of musical genres.

Milnthorpe Steelband

The CD is a live recording full of energy and vibes. Twenty tracks of jammed packed music with steelpan favorites such as Tequila Medley, Island in the Sun, Yellow Bird, Three Little Birds and Jamaican Farewell. As this is their first CD I look forward to many more from this aspiring and motivated steelband from the North of England.

