

# CD & Book reviews

## A pick of the **BEST**



schools leaving Contrast in the more than capable hands of his protégé, Pat Munroe.

A group is as good as its leader and Contrast steelband has one such leader and arranger in Pat Munroe. In October 2004, she received an Education in the Community Award, followed in December 2008 with an Outstanding Achievement Award from The British Association of Steelbands and in September 2009 she received her 25 year Service Award from Leicestershire County Council, all through teaching pan. Pat has been playing from the age of nine and has progressed from pupil to band member, assistant instructor, band leader, arranger and full time steel pan instructor/consultant for Leicestershire.

Players from Contrast have taken part in National Panorama competitions on numerous occasions when they performed with Phase 1 from Coventry, Eclipse from London

and more recently with Real Steel from Plymouth in 2007-2009 achieving a well earned 2nd place in Panorama 2008 and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Jouvert 'Bomb Tune' competition. In May 2008, nine of their players achieved a 2nd place at the BAS/FDF Pan Explosion in the under twenty-five category.

Pans are very expensive to maintain and more support must be given to groups like Contrast which help to promote steel pan, music and carnival arts. Transportation costs, players' remuneration and the cost of regular tuning of the instruments must be taken into account when potentials customers quibble over fees charged by steelbands. Let's hope that the business community and other sponsors will support steelbands who help to keep the youths off the streets by finding an outlet to develop their creativity and afford them a professional qualification.

by **Pat Munroe**



### Hotel Nederlandia – Kenneth 'Mr. Steel' Goddard Jr.

Kenneth 'Mr. Steel' Goddard uses the lyrics on his debut solo album to give his view of the Dutch society today and its transformation in the last thirty years since his arrival in the Netherlands. With his instrumental repertoire Kenneth is dedicated to convincing the (Dutch) audience that steel pan music is a lot broader than the tunes tourists hear on their Caribbean holidays. Thirteen tracks of explosive music exploring different genres.



### In Touch – Ray Holman

The music on this CD represents Ray's new found freedom at that time to explore other genres and experiment with different sounds while still keeping in touch with his Caribbean roots. The compositions were inspired by people and places. *Red Beans and Rice* reminded him of his grandmother's cuisine whilst *Memory of Your Smile* depicts his mother's warm and gentle smile. Nine tracks of memorable and timeless music.



### From Tabanca to Rain – Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra

Expect nothing less than quality from Trinidad All Stars. Great sound reproduction, arrangements and big tunes like *The Heavy Roller*, *Rain Melody* and *Pan Earthquake*. Another must have CD for the Pan CD collection.



### University of Calypso – Andy Narell and Relator

Calypso and steelpan, the original combination. A quality recording by Relator and Narell accompanied by good percussion and musicianship. A mellow, nostalgic, easy listening CD.

## Book Review

### Steel Pan Tuning – A handbook for Steelpan Making and Tuning by Ulf Kronman



The aim of this book is *not* to promote a standardization of the crafting process. It is rather to present major steps of the process and gather the tricks, specialities and results of some different methods so we can have an open discussion of their usefulness. In this way the community of pan makers can join the information society and start to develop the steel pan instrument through the same methods as used by manufacturers of high-tech instruments, such as pianos, violins, saxophones, etc. The main purpose of this handbook is thus *not* to teach novices how to tune steel pans. The making and tuning of good steel pans is a crafting art that must and should be taught practically by a skilled pan maker. But the methods have hitherto been passed on completely through oral tradition. Therefore, a handbook like this one can, seen as a complimentary aid to facilitate the teaching of pan making. The documentation is also intended to serve as a basis for a discussion of existing and emerging new tuning techniques. Source – The Pan Page – <http://www.hotpans.se/pan>

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