



Press Release: UCCI News
Date: July 21, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCCI "PANDEMIX" STEELPAN BAND GOES INTERNATIONAL

The UCCI Cayman National Steel Band, Pandemix, will soon mark their second performance on an international stage at the 2010 Caribana Festival in Toronto, Canada. Caribana, the largest Caribbean festival in North America, began on July 14th and will run until August 8th. The "Pandemix" band has joined forces with local band "Panoramers" and one of Toronto's leading bands, "Afropan Steel Pan Band: The People Band", for a highly anticipated competition performance during "Pan Alive" on July 30th and the parade on July 31st. "Pandemix" will also participate in the very popular "Blokos" street party with several other bands.

"Afropan: The People Band", which has won awards for the best playing Steelpan band at the Caribana Parade 26 times out of the 36 years of the competition, extended their welcome to UCCI's young panners for the second year running. This year, the "Pandemix" contingent has grown to 17 members, some of whom will experience playing with another band for the first time. Band member and UCCI Student, Ms. Trisha Cuffy had this to say about the trip, "It is truly an honor for both UCCI "Pandemix" and "Panoramers" Steelpan Bands to be invited for another year to join The Afropan Steelpan Band in Canada. With a larger group this year, and new members, we expect the experience to be both challenging and rewarding. Collectively, we can all learn many things from each other and further develop our skills and technique."

UCCI's Music Director, Mr. Glen Inanga also stated that, "The UCCI Cayman National Pandemix Steel Band will be representing the Cayman Islands as artistic ambassadors. I am confident that they will make the most of this wonderful opportunity for educational development and cultural exchange."

Mr. Inanga also thanked all those who have supported "Pandemix" since its inception in September 2008, in particular, Cayman National Corporation, the band's principal sponsor and Mr. Earl LaPierre. For more information about the UCCI steelpan programme or other course offerings in the music department at UCCI, please contact Mr. Glen Inanga at ginanga@ucci.edu.ky.

BACKGROUND:

Caribana: Every summer, Toronto (Canada) blazes with the excitement of calypso, steel pan and elaborate masquerade costumes during the annual Scotiabank Caribbean Festival. The Scotiabank Caribana Festival celebrates its 43rd anniversary in 2010, it is the largest Caribbean festival in North America. Presented by the Festival Management Committee, the three-week Festival attracts over a million participants annually, including hundreds of thousands of American tourists. <http://caribana.com/>

See release in the Cayman Compass:

<http://www.compasscayman.com/caycompass/2010/07/28/Pandemix-head-to-Toronto-s-Caribana/>