

PRESS RELEASE

SCOTIABANK GIVES UNSPONSORED STEELBANDS A HEADSTART FOR PANORAMA

Carnival 2007 celebrations received an added boost when Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited recently hosted members of the steelband fraternity during the bank's annual unsponsored steelbands cheque presentation. Present at the event were representatives from over 35 steelband orchestras including the winners of the first ever "Pan Round the Neck" competition - St. James Tripolians, two of South Trinidad's oldest bands – Southern Marines and Antillean All Stars, a winner of four consecutive National Panorama Single Band Category competitions from 1998-2001, the Arima All Stars, North Stars winners of the first two Panorama competitions in 1963 and 1964, and Potential Steel Orchestra, Panorama Zonal Winners on ten occasions.

Another highlight of the evening's proceedings took place when the bank paid special tribute to its guest of honour, Mr. Ray Holman, in recognition of his contribution to the steelband, and his talent as a composer, arranger and steel drum performer. Holman, who began playing the steelpan at age 13, was the first arranger to compose and play his own music for the National Steelband Panorama competition - this was in 1972 when he composed "Pan on the Move" played by the Starlift steel orchestra. Since then, he has arranged for many of the top local steel orchestras, including Starlift, Pandemonium, Tokyo, Invaders, Phase II Pan Groove, Antillean All Stars Exodus and Hummingbirds. Holman has also won many prestigious awards, including the Hummingbird Silver Medal of Merit from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and a Pan Legend Award from the New York Folk Arts Institute and the U.S. Congress.

Scotiabank's annual steelbands cheque presentation seeks to assist unsponsored steelbands from all regions of Trinidad and Tobago with the operating expenses associated with their performances during the Carnival season, which include tuning and reconditioning of pans, repair and construction of racks/stands, transportation and professional arranger fees. This initiative, which can be traced back to 1978, stems from the bank's focus on continuously contributing to the communities in which it serves, via its 23 branches throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

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For further information, please contact Reena Panchorie, Assistant Manager, Public & Corporate Affairs at 625-3566 Ext 2202.



Attendees enjoy the evening's proceedings



Mr. Mohan Ramjit (Left), Scotiabank's Assistant General Manager, Sales & Marketing, presents a token and cheque donation to the Guest of Honour, Mr. Ray Holman, composer, arranger and steel drum performer.