



Colorado State University

School of the Arts

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Press Release

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY STEELBAND CONCERT FEATURES MUSIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Fort Collins, CO - The School of the Arts at Colorado State University presents a concert by the CSU Steelband featuring the music of Trinidadian composer, arranger, and pan artist Jit Samaroo and showcasing the steel pan in a small group jazz context on Thursday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be held in Griffin Concert Hall at the University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington St. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for Colorado State students and youth ages 6 to 17. Tickets are available from the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, by phone at 970-491-4849, or online at www.csutix.com, and advance purchase is recommended.

The CSU Steelband will perform Jit Samaroo's classic Panorama arrangement of "Pan in A Minor", a calypso composed by Aldwyn Roberts, better known as "Lord Kitchener." With its advanced variations and fast runs, this challenging piece is one of the most exciting works in the steelband repertoire.

The concert also features the steel pan in a small group jazz context, showcasing CSU graduating senior Paul Munzenrider and music faculty member and director of the Steelband Don Prorak. This portion of the program includes Dennis "Merchant" Franklyn's, "Pan in Danger," John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie's, "A Night in Tunisia," and a pan solo by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe's, "Sweet," performed by Munzenrider.

Prorak says that in this concert, the CSU Steelband "continues to explore the many facets of pan music, rooted in the traditions of its homeland of Trinidad & Tobago, while embracing the contributions of the world-wide pan community."

About Steel Pan Music

The steel pan or steel drum is the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. Pans are constructed by pounding the top of the oil drum into a bowl-like shape, which is then tempered over a fire until it is "white hot" and allowed to cool. Then the notes are laid out, shaped, grooved, and tuned with a variety of hammers and other tools. The note's size corresponds to the pitch - the larger the oval, the lower the tone, and the size of the instrument varies from one pan to another.

About Jit Samaroo

Jit Samaroo has no formal musical training and first became involved with the steelpan at the age of ten when he joined the pan-around-the-neck steelband "Village Boys." From there, he became a member of the "Lever Brothers Camboulay Steel Orchestra" at the age of 14. As a reward for his involvement with the Trinidad and Tobago culture, he was awarded the National Hummingbird Medal of Merit in 1987 and the National Chaconia Medal in 1995. Samaroo can be seen discussing "Pan in A Minor" and how he develops his arrangements at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i68jp5yqZI>.

About Don Prorak

Don Prorak's musical career has included virtually all aspects of percussion, but he now focuses almost exclusively on steel pan. He leads Pan Jumbies, as well as Toco Bay with marimbist Jim Theobald, and founded steelband programs with his own collection of steel pan instruments at both Colorado State University and Brighton Heritage Academy. Prorak has travelled to Trinidad and Tobago many times to perform with some of the nation's top steelbands and pan artists. He has recorded & produced 2 CDs with Pan Jumbies, "Say It With Pan", and "Jam It With You". Prorak holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois in Urbana, and a Master of Music degree in Percussion Performance from DePaul University.

For a full performance and event calendar, more information, and to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.

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