

2-point win for All Stars

Gary Cardinez

PRIME MINISTER Kamla Persad-Bissessar presented the first prize at the Panorama finals on Saturday night as two points separated two bands from \$2 million.

It truly was showtime for Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars as they performed at the final of the National Panorama Competition at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain on Saturday night.

Appearing in position one, dressed in dazzling red shirts and red hats with flashing blue lights, All Stars defied the saying 'the first shall be last and the last first' as the band from Duke Street, Port of Spain outdid all competitors with its fireworks, confetti, dancers and

music to take the historic \$2 million first prize.

All Stars gave the Queen's Park Savannah audience eight minutes and 14 seconds of a Leon "Smooth" Edwards arrangement of Edwin Pouchet and Alvin Daniell's composition of "It's Showtime" beating defending champions PCS Silver Stars at their own game.

Coming in second was Sagico Exodus, the band which played in the second position.

Exodus brought a wave of people from on the track onto the stage which signalled the start of problems for the stage crew.

Their rendition of Pelham Goddard's arrangement of Mark Loquan, Ken Philmore and Destra



BIG TROPHY: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, centre, and Arts and Multiculturalism Minister Winston Gypsy Peters, at right, present the \$2 million winner's cheque to Dwayne Hill of Panorama champion Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain, on Saturday night. Looking on at left is Pan Trnago president Keith Diaz. —Photos: STEPHEN DOOBAY

Garcia's "Calling Meh" was eight minutes 11 seconds of sweet pan music.

From the one-minute introduction to the last note, Exodus's players exuded confidence.

In the end their performance was good enough to earn them the \$1 million second prize.

There was anticipation as defending champions PCS Silver Stars rolled onto the stage.

They took some time to set up and this drew slow applause from the audience.

But when Silver Stars began to play people quickly forgot and showed their appreciation with shouts of joy.

The energy emanating from the youthful players along with the fireworks and fog made a good show.

Their seven minutes, 40 seconds rendition of Edwin Pouchet's arrangement of "It's Showtime" caused a stir among the audience but it was not enough for Silver Stars to retain their title.

Coming in fourth was Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove with a fantastic rendition of Len Boogsie Sharpe's arrangement of "Do Something For Pan".

Boogsie's eight minutes

and ten seconds of music was ecstasy, proving again he is one of the greatest arrangers in Panorama.

Also placing fourth was CAL Invaders, who played a fantastic Arddin Herbert arrangement of "Do Be On Dat".

This was one of the best performances by Invaders for some time.

With raging thunder and lightning coming from among the pan racks NLCB Fonclaire under Ken Professor Philmore gave the audience a very good performance of "A Raging Storm". Bearing their sponsor's logo on the pans and banners for the first time in several years, Desperadoes came on stage to do Benjai's "Trini" as arranged by Beverly Griffith, A Robley and Eddie Quarless.

This was a totally transformed Desperadoes with the racks and float decorated like a house.

After their eight minutes rendition they received a healthy applause from the Grand and North Stands.

Petrotrin Siparia Deltones also played Benjai's "Trini" and tied with Desperadoes, their performance of Carlton Alexander's arrangement,



Met Office: Play mas in the rain

MASQUERADERS may have to make umbrellas an unwanted accessory to their costumes as officials from the Meteorological Office say that they are expecting rain today.

Thousands of revellers are expected to take to the streets from today.

International reports stated last week that thousands of visitors are here for the annual two-day event.

According to officials from the Met office at Piarco the early morning period will be dry but this will change as the day wears on.

"On Monday it will be partly cloudy with a few showers from late morning into the afternoon," an official from the Met office said yesterday.

In recent years rain has become a part of the street parade but this has not stopped the show or dampened the spirits of masqueraders.

The weather is expected to improve tomorrow and participants and spectators will be able to enjoy clear skies and bright sunshine.

The Met office spokesperson said: "There will be brief isolated showers on Tuesday but it will be mostly fair."

The results

BAND	MEDIUM	SCORE
1. Valley Harps		275
1. Katzenjammers		275
3. NLCB Buccooners		269
4. Courts Sound Specialist of Laventille		268
5. Pan Elders		266
6. Sangre Grande Cordettes		258
7. Steel Xplosion		257
7. Arima Angel Harps		257
9. Power Stars		255
9. Pambori		255

LARGE:		
1. Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars		278
2. Sagico Exodus		276
3. PCS Silver Stars		275
4. Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove		273
4. CAL Invaders		273
6. NLCB Fonclaire		271
7. Petrotrin Siparia Deltones		270
7. Desperadoes		270
9. RBC/RBTT Redemption Sound Setters		268
10. Starlit		265

though different did not meet with the approval of the judges.

RBC/RBTT Redemption Sound Setters playing "It's Showtime" as arranged by Winston Gordon and Starlit's rendition of Liam Teague's arrangement of De Fosto's "In She Rainorama" made up the cast of the show.

The large conventional

band category was a show made up of ten individual shows each put on by the competing bands.

From the count one each occasion came lights camera and action.

In the medium category Tobago's Katzenjammers and Valley Harps were difficult to separate as the judges tied them for first position.