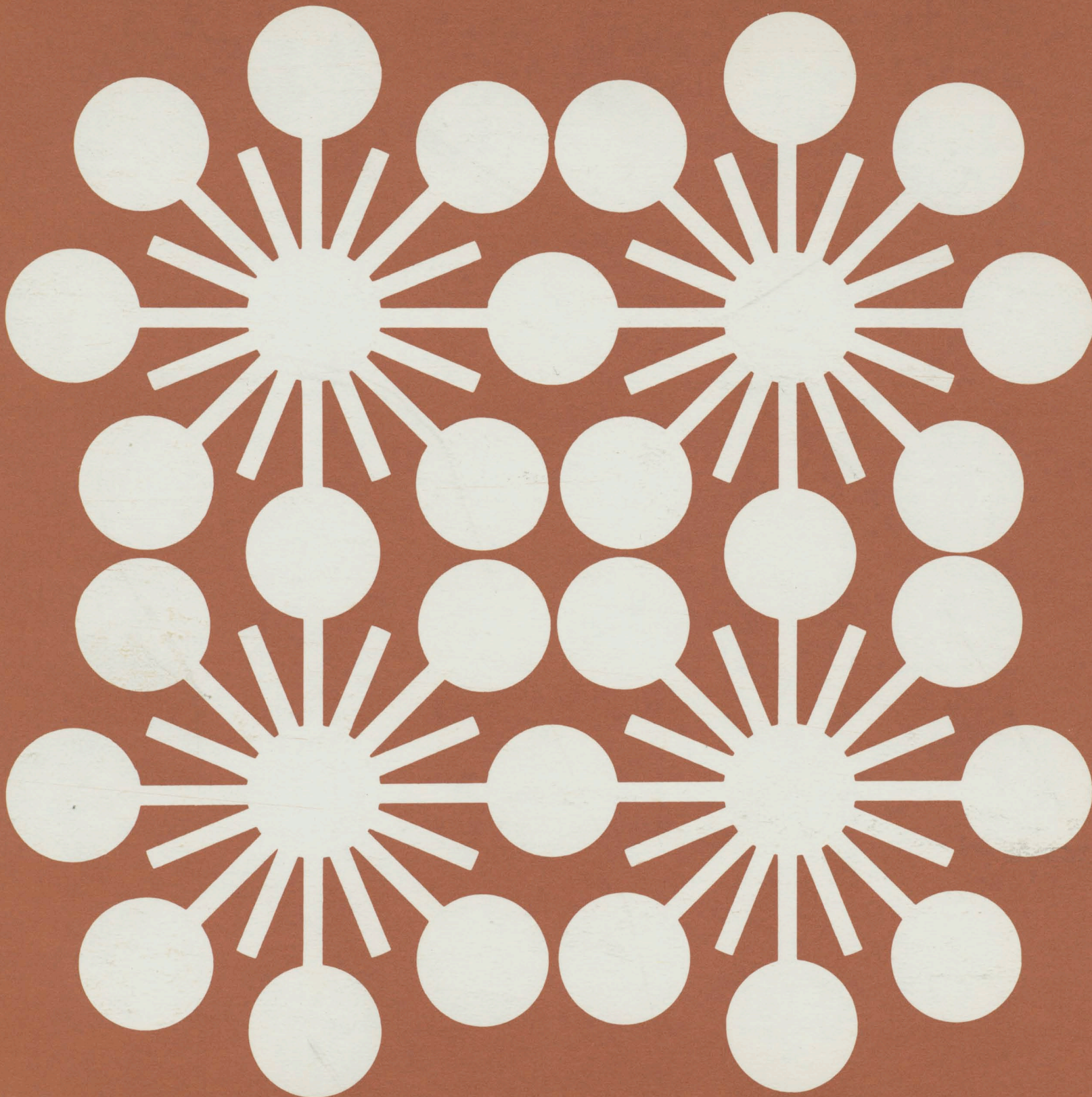


# STEEL BAND

PLAYED BY THE TRINIDAD PANHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RECORDED IN TRINIDAD BY VITA ART PRODUCTIONS



FOLKWAYS RECORDS FW 6865

M  
1363  
S913  
1957

MUSIC LP

# STEEL BAND

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FW 6865

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

I. MATILDA (King Radio)  
ON PARADE (Clem Bellera)  
WEST INDIANS TAKE OVER (Trinidad Panharmonic Orch.)  
MASTER PLANTER (Vital Angel)

II. TRINIDAD CASTILLANE (Bert McLean)  
BROWN SKIN GIRL (King Radio)  
MERRY MERINGUE (Bert McLean)  
MERENGUE BOOM (Clem Bellera)  
MAMA GAVE YOU SOMETHING (Vital Angel)



TRINIDAD CASTILLANE  
BROWN SKIN GIRL  
MATILDA

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ST INDIANS TAKE OVER    MERENGUE BOOM    ON PARADE    MASTER PLANTER    MERRY MERINGUE    MAMA GAVE YOU SOMETHING

MUSIC LP

Steel band has been presented to the world as a phenomena, a Barnum subject. Something like the sound of the rattle of the ribs of the skinniest man, or the rustle of the bearded woman's beard. This perception of steel band music was to give to a terrific discovery the life-span of a "sensational" or "strange event" quality in the news. Steel band is more, much more than that. It is the newest form of entertainment which I believe will make many a form and style in this field jealous, terribly so too. Steel band has the power to instill in you the urge to wriggle like a snake, to jump like the goatiest of goats and tip-toe like the Pavlova. It is a form of music that grows on you, and you demand more and more all the time. It appeals to the kids, the grown-ups and the old. It will catch the fancy of the simple, the smart and the sophisticated.

Vita-Art Productions of steel-band are under the supervision of one of the most famous Trinidad band-leaders, Mr. Burt McLean.

The Band - The Pan Harmonic Steel Orchestra has been formed in the inception of steel band times. It has been playing in such varied places as the Ritzi Yacht Club of Trinidad and Tobago as well as funerals and weddings. The Trinidad Pan Harmonic Orchestra has been selected to give steel band concerts in all Public Squares of Trinidad and Tobago. Attendance at these concerts has reached to 30,000 and it is increasing all the time.

The origin of steel band is quite recent. It all started during World War II dreary years, when fête and carnival were banned by the police throughout these Islands. Trinidadians make out of every occasion a fête and a carnival, including Christmas

and funerals; this prohibition was more than they could bear. So, instead of using musically conventional instruments they picked up any noise-making-object in-sight and started to beat it as hard as they could until they got the answer to their pent-up cry for rhythm. Among other objects involved in this beating were pots, pans, bottles, bamboo, Biscuit-drums, wheel-drums and even stones. This cacophonie, plus the rhythm, which is definitely in every living Trinidadian, crystallized an all rhythm melody which actually satisfied even the ears of good musicians. This success has led some to experiment further with other primitive sound making objects and that is how the old oil drum distinguished itself among all. We must mention the great bloody fights that police authorities had with the different steel-bands-men to quiet them down. Indeed, at the beginning it was an ear-breaking, rest-killing noise, which aroused all Trinidadians against these band-men; hence police intervention to suppress it. But, as it is true of any other genius, this one too could not be suppressed.

Steel-band-orchestra today is composed of 19 drums of different lengths. Each drum is cut short or long to set the sharp or deep sounds required. The surface of the drum is also in turn beaten up into big or small circles, this to render bass or high notes. Steel orchestras can play calypso and South American tunes as well as semi-classical and even classical music. As you see, steel band is there to stay, to entertain you whoever you may be, and that is what we want to offer.

.....Vital Angel