



The Steely Pan Steel Band® consists of 22 performers and 41 steel drums, including drum set and other types of percussion. The ensemble has gained quite a reputation performing at universities, art festivals and all types of schools throughout the south for over the past sixteen years. They were featured at both the North and South Carolina Music Teachers Conventions and have given clinic/performances at Percussive Arts Society's Day of Percussion. The Steely Pan Steel Band was sponsored by WSOC, channel 9, in Charlotte, N.C. as part of the cities Spring Fest and performed on the Fourth Ward stage. The ensemble performs a variety of music from traditional soca/calypsos, to classical, to rock and roll, and even performs traditional Appalachian Mountain music. One of the goals is to demonstrate to audiences the variety of music that can be performed on the pans. Not just "Yellow Bird", and other Caribbean tunes. If schools are interested, music is sent in advance, so music teachers or choral directors can prepare their students to perform with the steel band. The steel band performs a wonderful four part Caribbean round that has been used with entire schools, as well as "Jamaican Farewell" and an African song call "Siyhamba", that has worked well with middle-school choruses. If a specific song is requested we're more than happy to work with schools to put together a performance with the students. Dr. Scott Meister is retiring and this will be his last year with the Steely Pan Steel Band®

During their concerts they like to break away from the steel drums and perform at least one selection with African or Middle Eastern hand instruments. Dr. Meister talks about the instruments and their origins, and members of the ensemble demonstrate the individual sounds of the instruments. During each concert the band demonstrates an oral history of the steel band by performing on tamboo bambos and early steel instruments. As a builder/tuner of steel drums, Dr. Meister, talks about the origin of steel drums and how they are made and tuned.



As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! offers a variety of performances at venues across the Appalachian State University campus that feature university-based artists as well as local, regional and world-renowned professional artists. These affordable performances offer access to a wide variety of art disciplines for K-12 students. The series also offers the opportunity for students from the Reich College of Education to view a field trip in action without having to leave campus.

Among the 2013-2014 series performers, you will find those who will also be featured in the [Performing Arts Series](#) along with professional artists chosen specifically for our student audience as well as performances by campus groups. All shows in the 2013-2014 series are performed at the newly renovated Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts.

Before you arrive. . .



Familiarize your students with what it means to be a great audience member by introducing these theatre etiquette basics:

- Arrive early enough to find your seats and settle in before the show begins (20-30 minutes).
- Remember to turn your electronic devices OFF so they do not disturb the performers or other audience members.
- Remember to sit appropriately and to stay quiet so that the audience members around you can enjoy the show too.
- Show appreciation to the performers by applauding and reacting to funny or impressive feats.



### **What can you expect at the performance?**

The Steely Pan Steel Band is a percussion band. It is part of the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University. The Band has 20 members and 40 steel drums! The band members are all students at Appalachian State University.

At the concert, you will hear a variety of music from traditional Calypso music of the Caribbean to the familiar Appalachian Mountain music of our region. The concert will last about 50 minutes.

Consider these things:

What is a percussion instrument?



A percussion instrument is one in which sound is produced by one object striking another or by being scraped or shaken. You can see some pictures here of percussion instruments that are familiar to you. What are other percussion instruments that you know about?



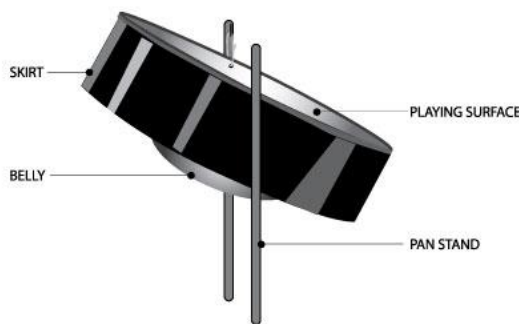
What is a steel drum?

- Musical instruments created in Trinidad and Tobago in
- Made from that are different
- Also called

Below is a picture pan.



Parts of the Steel Pan



the 1930's.

55 gallon oil barrels indented to make tones when hit. steel pans.

of the parts of a steel

## Where are Trinidad and Tobago?

Trinidad is the southernmost island in the Caribbean, lying just off the coast of Venezuela, and with its much smaller sister island forms the nation of Trinidad and Tobago.



Once you are here. . .



### **What should you look/listen for throughout the show?**

- Think about how the sounds of the steel pans compare to other traditional percussion instruments you have heard.
- Look for the African or Middle Eastern hand instruments used in the performance and compare the sounds and music made with these instruments to the sounds and music of the steel pans.
- Listen to the oral history of the steel band and the descriptions of the instruments.
- Think about how the traditional Calypso music of the Caribbean compares to the Appalachian mountain music.

### **Back at school. . .**

- Reflect on favorite aspects of the show. Discuss what you liked best about the performance and why.
- What did you learn today that you didn't know before?
- What did you see during the performance that tied into the cultural history you explored before the show?

### **Activities that connect with the show**

- Find Trinidad and Tobago on the world map!
- Make your own shaker: Fill a plastic container (small pop bottles, vitamin containers, etc.) with popcorn, rice, or other small objects. Discuss how the size of the container will influence the sound.
- Explore the physics of creating a steel pan and the different sounds made by playing certain notes on steel pans.
- Research the drumming traditions of slavery in North America and the cultural exchange between music in the US and the Caribbean.

# Resources

## Elementary

- *The Calypso Alphabet* by John Agard • Illustrated by Jennifer Bent (ASU IMC Stacks E A261ca)
- *Drummer Boy of John John* by Mark Greenwood • Illustrated by Frané Lessac (ASU IMC Stacks 92 W783g)
- *The Steel Pan Man of Harlem* by Colin Bootman (ASU IMC Stacks E B7255st)

## Middle & Secondary

- *Steel Drumming at the Apollo: The Road to Super Top Dog* by Trish Marx and Ellen B. Senisi (ASU IMC Stacks 785.68 M392st)
- *Trinidad* (Festivals of the World Series) by Royston Ellis (ASU IMC Stacks 394.26972983 E47tr)
- *Trinidad and Tobago* (Cultures of the World Series) by Sean Sheehan (ASU IMC Stacks 972.983 S541tr)

## Reference

- *The Steelband Movement: The Foraging of a National Art in Trinidad and Tobago* (ASU Music Stacks ML3486.T7 S78 1995)

## Multimedia

- *The Best of the Steely Pan Steel Band*- Music CD (ASU Music Recording CD-1157)
- *Multi-cultural Children's Songs* arranged by Ella Jenkins – Music CD (ASU IMC Stacks 780.9 J52mu)
- *Putumayo Presents Calypso: Vintage Songs from the Caribbean* – Music CD (ASU Music Recording CD-3761)
- *Sounds of Percussion (Spotlight on Music Series)* by Alison Ellwood and Amy J. Kaufman- Interactive DVD (ASU IMC Stacks 372.87 S724 )
- Steely Pan Steel Band- [www.steelband.appstate.edu](http://www.steelband.appstate.edu)
- *Univeristy of Calypso* performed by Any Narell and Relator –Music CD (ASU Music Recording CD-7809)

## Idea Factory

The Idea Factory is located in room 031 of the IMC on the lower level of Belk Library and Information Commons. The Idea Factory is designed to assist ASU Cooperating Teachers, K-12 Watauga County Public School teachers, and ASU Education majors access to resources for enhancing classrooms and to assist in creating quality lesson units. [www.imc.library.appstate.edu/ideafactory](http://www.imc.library.appstate.edu/ideafactory)



This study guide was constructed with the help of Dr. Scott Meister and the Appalachian State University's Steely Pan Steel Band, Appalachian State University's Belk Library and Information Commons Education Librarian and the Office of Arts and Cultural Programs.  
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