

Research Presentation: PMAP 2020-2021 [S1]

Date: Jan, 2021

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Research Title: UTT WeCapture

Audio-visual capture-recording of art, music, and carnival in Trinidad and Tobago

CONTEXT:

Pan! (Steelpan) – the instruments, the bands, and music - is our most significant cultural invention in Trinidad and Tobago. The steel bands have nearly 200 member bands, which are potentially some of our most vibrant community groups, totalling thousands of men and women, boys and girls, in disciplined, collective, artistic and educational activities (K. Johnson).

When our team started to involve deeply with the cultural movement in 2009, only a limited quality steelpan recording existed. For the following 12 years, this project capture-recorded “Steelpan” from national events to communal activities previously undocumented. As a result, a large amount of cultural data we captured directly impacts the nation’s cultural preservation and sustainability.

Simultaneously, as a member of the world's scholarly society, establishing an archive database is essential for the UTT to contribute research and education

advancements both regionally and internationally. While history is being gathered, it is time to lay down materials that will form the core of future archives.

RESEARCH

Due to its distinctive sound characteristics of steelpan, the research focuses on discovering and developing a specialized audio technology, which produces the best quality recordings for long-term preservation and improves the presentation quality.

- Improvement of the sound quality of Panorama recording and broadcast audio.
- Specialization in Steelpan Audio Engineering
- Analysis of Steelpan Acoustic: instrument, pan canopy, venue acoustic, band's room acoustic.

Future Media Integration for Steelpan:

- 5.1,7.1 and 22.2 Dolby Surround Audio
- VR – Immersive Audio
- Binaural Microphone Recording
- Contents Creation
- Online Distribution

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ3lohuXxwc>

EDUCATION

The research integrated it into UTT students' educational curricula to teach practical audio technology for Steelpan / live sound practicum and cultural connection to provide them a reference point for their learning.

- Recording, post-production, and archiving of Steelpan at a world standard
- Practical Audio Engineering for Steelpan
- Live Sound Engineering for Steelpan
- On-location Recording
- Contents Creation
- Team Work and Work Ethics
- Production Management
- Promotion and Marketing

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Through the project, our team built a close relationship with local community, which demonstrates the significance of their cultural heritage and the necessity of the quality recording.

- Visited over 180 panyards across the nation for archival audio recording.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqGeBKG8B6A>

- Sound production supporting over 40 Steelbands: Desperadoes Steel Orchestra, Trinidad All Stars, Renegades Steel Orchestra, Phase II Pan

Groove, Exodus Steel Orchestra, Starlift Steel Orchestra, Fonclaire Steel Orchestra, birdsong Steel Orchestra, Sound Specialist of Laventille and more.

- “Pan in Classroom” and School Panorama: visiting and archive recordings of region’s school pan classrooms across the nation.
- Sound support for Primary and Secondary Schools and communal musical academy such as birdsong Academy, Belmont Boys School, Success/Laventille Secondary School.
- Extended coverage of other cultural contents: Tassa Drum and Hosay Celebration, Diwali Celebration, Parang, Tambu Bamboo, Kambule, Stick fighting and Rhythm Section.

OUTCOME

Internal Collaboration:

- Sound support and Recording for the APA Productions: APA Fest, IBIS recitals, East Indian Classical and APA Steelpan event productions.
- Recordings and sound support for the lecture series of UTT Arts, Letters, Cultures and Public Affairs.
- Sound support and recording of UTT Steelpan Panorama, Pan on De Steps, Pan Ascension, Pan Kingdom and more.

Local Collaboration:

- NCC, Pantrinbago, Tuco, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Arts and Community Development, birdsong Academy, WACK FM, Advance Dynamics and others.
- Ministry of Arts and Community Development: supporting NSSO and NSO for live show production and audio recording of their performances.
- Advanced Dynamics for 5.1 surround audio production for Official Panorama DVD release.
- Pantrinbago's Panorama Finals Audio CD releases
- Coproduction of online audio streaming of captured recordings of Panorama via SoundCloud. https://soundcloud.com/panorama_live
- Indigenousounds: to record and produce Sound Library of the Laventille Rhythm Section for virtual instrument platform.
<https://www.indigisounds.com/>

International Collaboration:

- NHK (Japan National Broadcast) for Panorama visual recording: Audio Recording and Post production in 5.1 and 22.2 surround for 4k and 8K visual production and broadcast.
- "Pan": Our Musical Odyssey (Documentary Movie production with Trinidad and Tobago and France): Audio Production of musical contents.