

# Announcement of Steelpan Examinations

New steelpan examinations will be available in Great Britain and Trinidad from the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

The examinations will be available in two stages:

- grades 1 – 5 from Early 2012 and
- grades 6 – 8 from early summer 2012

The examinations have been developed by Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya (PRSSV) and the Steel Band Advisory Service of Great Britain.

The examination grades have been validated by the Open College Network Credit4learning and equate to the National Framework of Qualifications (UK) where Grade 3 is Level One, grade 5 is Level Two (GCSE level) and grade 8 is Level Three (A level).

While the rationale for these examinations is to first celebrate students' achievements, its aims are also to:

Protect steelpan culture

- ensure that it does not become subsumed by other forms of music
- enable its students to develop skills that will help them and the steel pan instrument to develop
- ensure its future as an outstanding artistic phenomenon

The purpose of these examinations is therefore to:

- Strengthen and develop steel pan playing
- Value the acquisition of skills by players and the abilities of their teachers
- Provide support to teachers; students; arrangers and players;
- Maintain and develop Good Practice
- Provide opportunities for students who work through the examination system to develop the skills needed to arrange music for steel pan instruments,;
- Safeguard the Steel Pan and Folk Music of the Trinidad and West Indian Culture, whilst assisting in its future development.