

January 1, 2008

Dear Steelband Directors:

Happy New Year!

We are excited to tell you that planning for the Festival is well underway here in Blue Hill, Maine. We are securing the use of an excellent site which offers space for a huge tent for the outdoor concert, and cafeteria, gymnasium and classroom space indoors for meals, fête, and workshops. We are able to announce our "guest artist" Steel Sensation, under the direction of Amrit Samaroo, Jit Samaroo's son and arranger for many bands in Trinidad namely BP Renegades. There will be a good selection of workshops for all ages and abilities - including decorating and costume-making for the Fête.

For the festival concert on Sunday our request that each band prepare and perform just 3 numbers, we encourage a classical, a calypso, and a tune of choice. This should provide some interesting variety and also help keep the program moving. There will be a group piece as well which will be taught at the sectional workshops with Steel Sensation on Saturday there will not be music sent out in advance for this piece.

With enough advance notice we feel sure we can arrange overnight housing for your players in homes in the area nearby. This is not only economical but often proves to be one of the best parts of the Festival experience for the players, as they get a chance to get to know each other through their common interest in pan.

We are now at the stage where we need to hear from you that you are coming, so you will find a registration form enclosed. Please put it on top of the pile on your desk so that it will be sure to get returned to us by FEBRUARY 15th! Please let us know your intentions as soon as you can. We need to know how many to prepare for, and we sincerely hope you will all plan to come, this being the 18th Annual PanNE Steelband Festival, we are looking forward to a big gathering!

We will be posting information about the Pan Festival to our website [www.peninsulapan.org](http://www.peninsulapan.org). If you have questions which are not covered by the information herein please feel free to give me a call! Looking forward to hearing from you -

Sincerely,

Nigel P. Chase

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