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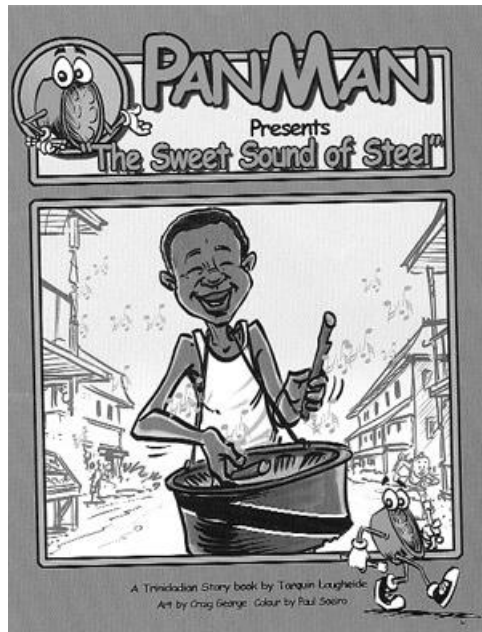
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Sweet steel

Teaching our children all about...

Rhea-Simone Auguste rauguste@trinidadexpress.com

Tuesday, March 9th 2010



'filling the gap': Panman Presents "The Sweet Sound of Steel".

It's an interesting selection for parents looking to put a local book in their children's hands for story time. Panman Presents 'The Sweet Sound of Steel', by Tarquin Lougheide, is, according to the author, 'an invaluable book with a bit of steelpan history that may help enhance children's appreciation for their culture'.

Born and raised in Trinidad, Lougheide moved to Canada about 20 years ago, but his love for pan music and his experience working in the arts in Trinidad motivated him to take on the project of creating a children's book series based on something from his homeland.

'I wanted to do something children in Trinidad and Tobago between the ages of four and 12 would enjoy and learn from. There's a sister colouring book, and I'm currently working on the rest of the series,' he shared.

The story was inspired by the life of Winston 'Spree' Simon and follows the journey of ten-year-old Winston as he moves from spending hours beating his biscuit tin to the discovery of another sweet sound. Brilliantly narrated, The Sweet Sound of Steel is currently being reviewed by the Toronto district school board for use in their libraries, Lougheide noted.

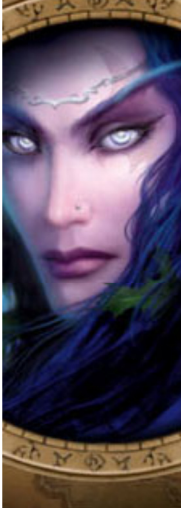
'It is a necessary book, and I realised that after doing a few readings here in Trinidad. Last week, I did a reading at the Carnegie Library in San Fernando and after speaking to some of the children, I noticed that many of them didn't know about the history of the steelpan. They didn't know about anything that took place before 1980.

'I believe this book and the others I'm working on will help

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fill the gap. I believe this book needs to be given to our kids.'

Officially launched in December 2009, the book can be purchased on Lougheide's website-www.panman.ca-or, for those looking to access it immediately, a limited supply can be located at Paper Based (Normandie), The Reader's Bookshop (St James) and Rainy Days (Ellerslie Plaza).

'The smaller bookstores jumped at the opportunity to carry my book, but the larger bookstores weren't willing to take copies unless they were given on consignment agreement.

'This is a small operation. I funded the whole project myself and I did it because I wanted to give back something creative to the country. That said, I am hoping people will be open to the book, support the idea behind it and give it a chance,' Lougheide shared.

'We have so much skill, talent and creativity in this country. We are innovators and I believe it is important to support our own. Nothing is wrong with foreign children's books, but this is 'we ting' and to me it all comes down to a question of self-worth,' Lougheide asserted.

'If we don't support our own culture, we can't expect our children to grow up with an appreciation for it.'

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