

# Music at Marshall

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2005

### *Special points of interest:*

- Urban Steel performs on the international scene.
- Marshall students visit Caribbean Academy.
- Learning the history and culture of our Partners.
- The exchange of plaques and gift giving.
- Hell's Gates 60th Anniversary.

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[www.urbansteelband.com](http://www.urbansteelband.com)

### ***Urban Steel Needs you.***

*Spread the word*

*Donations*

*Fundraising help*

*Drive the truck*

*Attend performances*

*Help us host Antigua in April 2006*

*Help us find a corporate sponsor.*

## Urban Steel travels to Antigua

After a year of performing and fundraising, John Marshall High School's Urban Steel Band was more than ready to travel to Antigua to participate in the annual Pan Project Exchange.

Seven student members of Urban Steel, two teachers and two parents traveled to Toronto and then on to Antigua, West Indies on April 14, 2005 for the 5th annual pan partnership.

Rochester, New York is partnered with Antigua through the Partners of the Americas, an organization founded by John F. Kennedy in the 60's. John Marshall is "twin-ed" with the St. Joseph's Academy through the pan project.

Every year the students come together to share their love for pan as they teach each other songs and join in a combined performance.

This year Urban Steel students had the privilege of rehearsing in the Panyard of the Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, the oldest existing steel band in the world. They rehearsed side by side with these famous performers as they learned original songs from the historic repertoire.

At first in awe, and then with joy and discipline,

the Marshall students dug in and learned their parts. The immediate connection through music was apparent to all especially when Urban Steel began playing "Africa". only to find Hell's Gate, and St. Joseph's performers jumping in to learn the parts. Music is truly the universal language.



A view from the hilltop at the Royal Antiguan Hotel St. John's, Antigua. [Photographer: Rob Tobey]

## Hell's Gate's 60th Anniversary

It was 1945 and Eustace Henry was only a 15 year old boy working for the local blacksmith in St. John's, Antigua. When the blacksmith returned from a visit to Trinidad with a version of the first steel drum Eustace be-

came excited. He immediately set out to make a pan for himself and became the first builder of pan in Antigua. Eventually he and his friends formed a band. He wasn't allowed to play pan at home because it was con-

sidered "devil's music". The old folks thought the sounds the youth made with their pans sounded like banging on the gates of hell. The boys decided to take the name Hell's Gate. (cont.)

## Urban Steel performs at Moravian Church

On Sunday morning, April 17, 2005 we were invited to perform at the Moravian Church in St. John's. The Moravians were missionaries who first came to the Caribbean in the 1700's.

We were warmly welcomed and introduced to the congregation. We enjoyed the lively singing of hymns and the brass band.

We played the song, "David Danced" featuring a solo by Danuel Taylor. When it came time for the improvisation section, Veron Henry stepped forward and he and Danuel traded fours as the band accompanied. It was an outstanding and spiritual

moment that we have captured on videotape thanks to Ann Marie Tobey, one of our parent chaperones.



The photo shows us with members of Hell's Gate and some of the Anti-

guan Partners after the service. As this was our third visit to the island we have forged some very deep friendships and during the sharing of peace we were able to greet many people we haven't seen for two years.

Stafford Joseph, our teacher and friend, is the second from the right on the top row. His generosity in sharing the music of Antigua has been a constant inspiration for Urban Steel.

Pan has finally been accepted in church as an outstanding representation of the culture. Hell's Gate performed a traditional hymn.

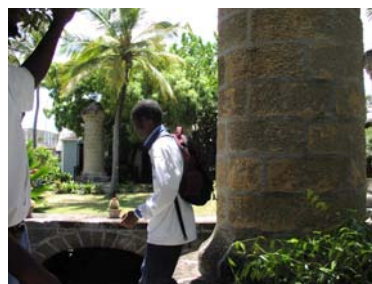
## Cultural Tour of Betty's Hope and Nelson's Dockyard

An important part of our exchange was sharing in the rich culture of our hosts.

We first visited Betty's Hope, a Partners Project which restored the first sugar mill and plantation so that visitors could see the early life of the island.

We then traveled to Nelson's Dockyard where ships docked to be

cleaned and repaired during the time of Admiral Lord Nelson in 1784. We saw the many preserved buildings and viewed the yachts that were visiting the island for "Sailing Week".



After a visit to the Interpretation Center of Antigua we stopped for

some "bun and cheese" which we enjoyed by the roadside along with some fresh fruit and guava juice.

We saw much of the island from the bus as we returned to our hotel.

## Hell's Gate's 60th Anniversary continued

Today, after many performances around the world, the band continues to thrive under the guidance of Eustace's three sons: Veron, Alston and Orville Henry.

Veron and Orville continue the tradition of pan building



begun by their father as they build pans for the Department of Tourism for local schools. Veron is also in great demand in the Caribbean as a pan tuner, a skill he learned at his father's knee.

The round-a bout (traffic circle) near the panyard has been named in Eustace's honor and he has received countless awards and honors over the years as the father of pan in Antigua.

## Urban Steel performs at Heritage Quay

This magical space near where the cruise ships dock was the setting for our Pantastic 2005 Concert.

Urban Steel members Aaron DiNatale, Bradley Hardenbrook, William Lee, Ricardo Stewart, Aaron Taylor, Danuel Taylor and Rob Tobey took the stage with directors Lisa Scott and Mary Taylor to perform "Africa" by Toto and "Jammin'" by Bob Marley.



Then we were treated to a performance by Hell's Gate that was an absolute inspiration. A mix of classic Hell's Gate repertoire like "Cantata" all the way to contemporary tunes. The traditional "Jump Up" at the end had us spinning. As they perform the players begin to jump and then turn completely around while never missing a note. The crowd was in a frenzy.

Then we combined with St. Joseph's

Academy and Hell's Gate for a tribute to Eustace "Mr. Manning" Henry with the tune ("Mr. Manning") named in this honor.

What a thrill to take the stage with Hell's Gate and even share their rhythm section. It was the first time Urban Steel members had seen the "steel", an old brake drum that is used to keep the beat.

It was also our first time performing on chromed pans. Now we all want that "so sweet sound". It was a night we will remember always for the music and the friendship forged through music.

## Marshall students attend classes at St. Joseph's Academy

Even though it was vacation time for us, Marshall students were invited to spend a day at the St. Joseph's Academy. Dressed in Marshall uniforms they rode the tour bus to meet the students they would shadow for the day.

Before they could even go to class they were asked to remove their earrings. There is a strict dress

code. They were expected to stand when a teacher entered the class of



10 to 12 students. Teachers moved instead of the students and classes were 45 minutes long. Chemistry and Physics were studied at a lower grade. Aaron Taylor, a senior at Marshall, attended Form 5 level classes while the other students joined Forms 2 and 3.

A lunch of chicken and macaroni and cheese was served outside. St. Joseph's has under 300 students.

## Hell's Gate's 60th Anniversary continued

Lisa Scott, co-director of Urban Steel, found a unique way to honor the history of Hell's Gate when she located some archival albums on e-Bay. She created a cover and had the songs burned to a CD in order to preserve the



long lost recordings.

Urban Steel made a presentation of the CD's to Eustace and his sons during this visit. As we gathered around to listen to those magic sounds we shared many stories about the old days and how it all began. It was inspiring to hear the

original version of a song we had just learned two nights before. Stafford Joseph, a long time member of Hell's Gate was asked what the CD meant to him. At a loss for words he just held the CD close to his heart. What a privilege for Urban Steel to share in this remarkable history.

# THE JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL URBAN STEEL BAND

ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thanks to our Principal, **Mr. Joseph Munno** for his continued support of the Urban Steel. His encouragement during the trip preparation process helped it all come together. Mr. Munno even drives the truck when necessary and we want him to know how much we value his commitment to our success.

Thanks to **Mr. C. Michael Robinson**, Assistant Superintendent of RCSD, who understood the vision when it was only a vision. Know that it has meant so much to so many and continues as a tribute to your faith and leadership. "If it is to be, it is up to me."

Thanks to **Mr. William Thurston**, House Administrator, for support above and beyond the call of duty. We would never have had a trip this year if it weren't for your help every step of the way.

Thanks to **Mollie Traub** for all her help in keeping the business of music out of the way of the performance of music.

Thanks to **Lisa Scott** and **Mary Taylor** for all the work and love they apply by sharing their passion for music with these extraordinary young people.

Thanks to all of our **parents** for working hand in hand with us on this exciting project which continues to empower our students.

Thanks to **Rob Tobey** for helping us spread our music through his awesome website design.

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## Plaque Exchange and Gift presentation

The culminating event, that winds up an almost overwhelming week of accomplishments is the "Plaque Exchange."

This year's gathering was held on the Terrace of the Royal Antiguan Hotel where animated conversations about the weeks events were shared.

We reveled in our new friendships and enjoyed the chance to sit back and reflect on the events with our old friends.

We received certificates from the St. Joseph's Academy signed by Mr. Gladwyn Charles, Principal of The Academy,



Urban Steel in our Hell's Gate shirts!!!!

Stafford Joseph, Pan Trainer and Veron Henry the Captain of Hell's Gate.

We thanked Mr. Rudolph Davis, Vice-Principal of the Academy for all of the work he did in making this such a successful visit. He coordinated many events and served as our travel guide. We are eternally grateful for his help and support.

Parents helped with transportation and shopping and several teachers also assisted us.

We thank all those whose efforts made this an outstanding visit.



We will be hosting our Antiguan visitors in 2006 and welcome any support or ideas for entertainment etc. during their visit.

Please contact Mary Taylor at [mtjazz@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mtjazz@rochester.rr.com) with your suggestions. Learn how rewarding it can be to participate in this very successful cultural exchange.