

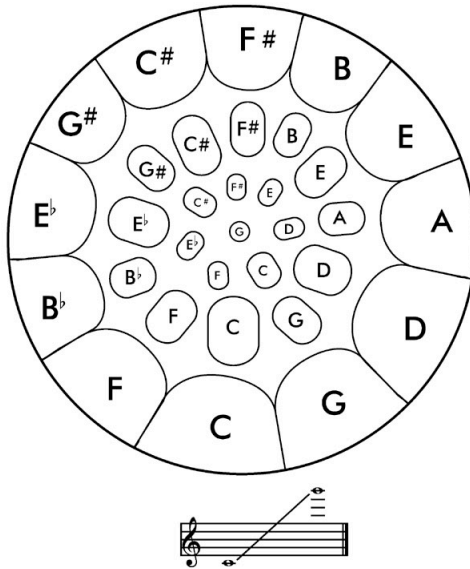
Steel Band for Everyone!

presented by
Sara DiPardo / Mike Wendeln

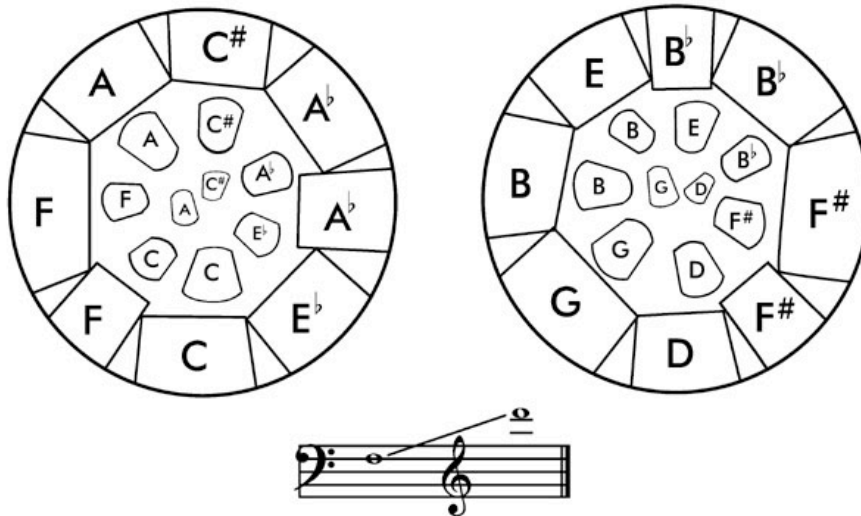
FMEA Convention
Tampa, FL
January 9th, 2014

Steel Drum Instruments

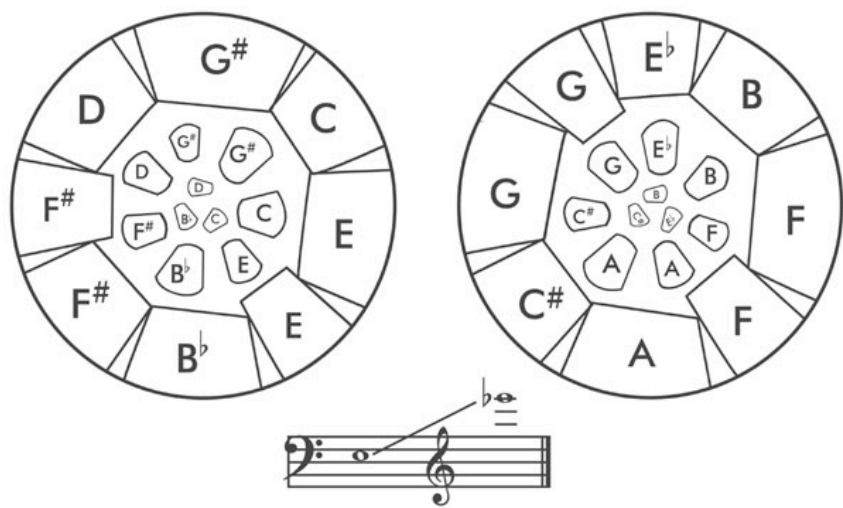
a. Tenor or Lead Pan



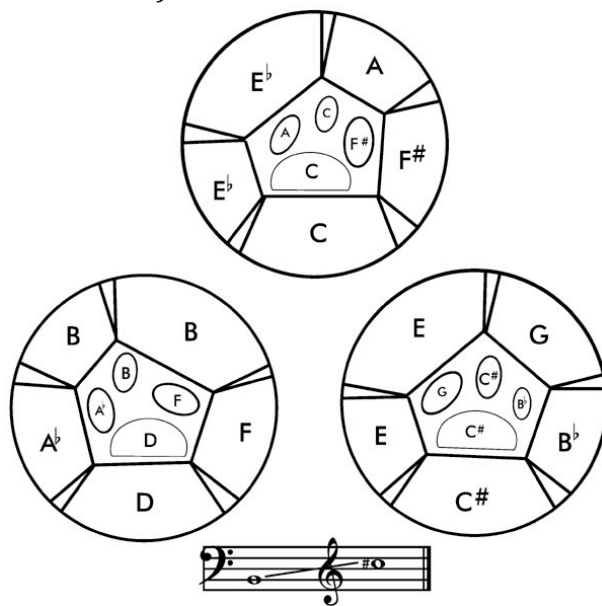
b. Double Tenor (reads Treble)



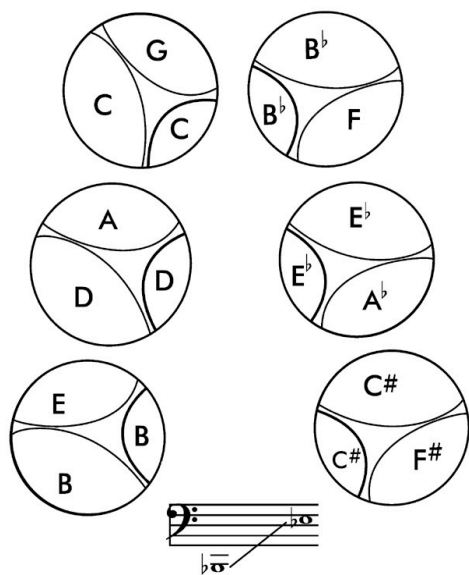
c. Double Second (reads Treble)



d. Guitar/Cello (reads Bass clef)



e. Bass



Thoughts on Pan instruments:

- These 5 types of instruments are more common and are the ones I use in my band. However, instrumentations in the steelband world are NOT standardized.
- Arrangements usually are written for 5-voice bands, (Lead, DT, DS, Guit/Cello, Bass)

Playing Techniques:

All the pan voices share some basic techniques:

Hold the stick with a couple fingers and thumb at the tail-end of the mallet.

With LIGHT pressure, let the pan mallet fall into a note.

For more volume, add WEIGHT to the stroke.

You DON'T need to raise the mallet that much.

To extend the sound in a long note, we ROLL

ROLL: alternate single hits, R L R L R L R L

-NOT double bounces like a snare drum.

WEIRD THING: when rolling 2 notes, it sounds best to strike them simultaneously first, then begin alternating hits.

Engine Room Instrument Techniques:

Essentials:

Drumset

- 4 piece is fine: Bass, Snare, 2 Toms
- Hi-Hat, Ride, and Crash Cymbals

Congas

- 2 different sizes (pitches)

Iron (brake drum)

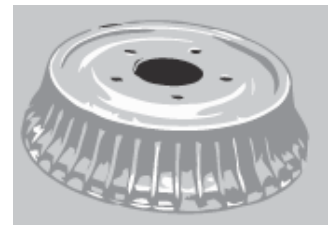
- actual brake drum from a car, a big chunk of metal could work-

Cowbells

- at least 2, one big and one small for options

Shakers/Scratchers

- a variety for options



Extras: (may be specific to certain styles/ tunes)

Agogo Bell

Timbales

Tamborine

Triangle

Wind Chimes

Surdo/Brazilian drums

Engine Room Patterns:

Drumset

Basic "Calypso"



Basic "Soca"



Congas

L L R L L R L L R L L R

Iron

Cowbell

Shaker

Thoughts on Engine Room instruments:

- It is CRUCIAL to understand the role of each engine room instrument and how it effects the overall groove...listen to lots of good pan music!
- Sometimes percussion parts are provided but very often, it is up to the director to know these styles and properly implement them.
- Since the music is SO rhythmic, even ONE instrument that is not properly “locked” into the groove can be disaster for the band...be careful! (Just put the extra kids ALL on shakers...NO!!!)
- We play many styles of music, so the director really needs to know these styles and the appropriate percussion instruments and grooves to use. You can’t just play Soca over everything.

Strumming

- In the steelband, chord players often utilize specific rhythmic accompaniment known as “strum patterns” -these are common strum patterns

Other stuff you'll need!

- Music Stands
- Stands for the instruments
 - Most of the pan companies also sell stands, or you can build them
 - Coyle Steel Drums (Pensacola, FL)
 - Mannette Steel Drums (Morgantown, West Virginia)
 - Panyard Inc. (Akron, Ohio)
 - Gill's Pan Shop (Trinidad)
- MALLETS!
 - Fairly inexpensive
 - Mallets are usually metal tubing with a rubber tip (the rubber strikes the pan)
 - Wood mallets are also available (personal preference)
 - Many companies also sell mallets
 - MalletMan Custom Pan Sticks -www.malletman.org

Where to get Music!

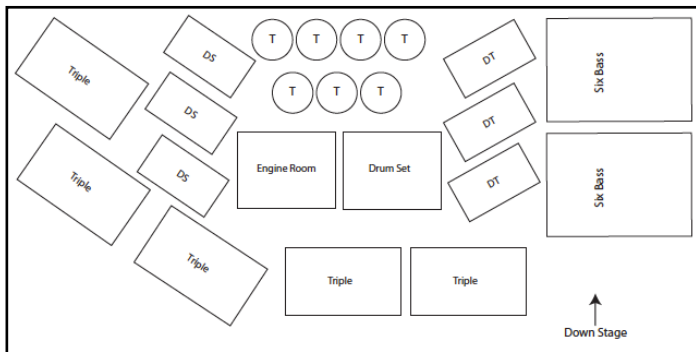
Sheet Music

- Panyard Inc. -www.panyard.com
- Hillbridge -www.hillbridge.com
- P. Note Publications -www.pnotemusic.com
- Pan Press -www.panpress.com
- Pan Ramajay -www.panramajay.com
- Coyle Drums -www.coyledrums.com
- Mannette Steel Drums -www.mannettesteeldrums.com
- Engine Room Publishing -www.engineerroompublishing.com

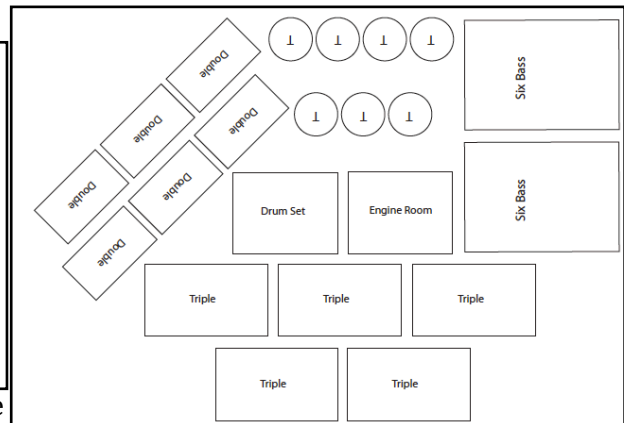
Tools for the Classroom:

Band Setup

- In the steelband, you have to consider many factors when determining a setup.
 - These are some common types of setup
 - please refer to Chris Tanner's book, *The Steelband Game Plan*, MENC (2006) for much more in-depth descriptions.



-this is approximately how I setup my stage performances



-this is a great rehearsal room setup (everyone facing in)

Teaching Materials

- Scales are universal!
 - They create interesting “stickings” for pan players
- Method Book
 - With additional “sight-reading” material
- Lots of music

Odds and Ends

- Drumset Skills!
- Foot Block
- Amplified Metronome

Suggested Recordings:

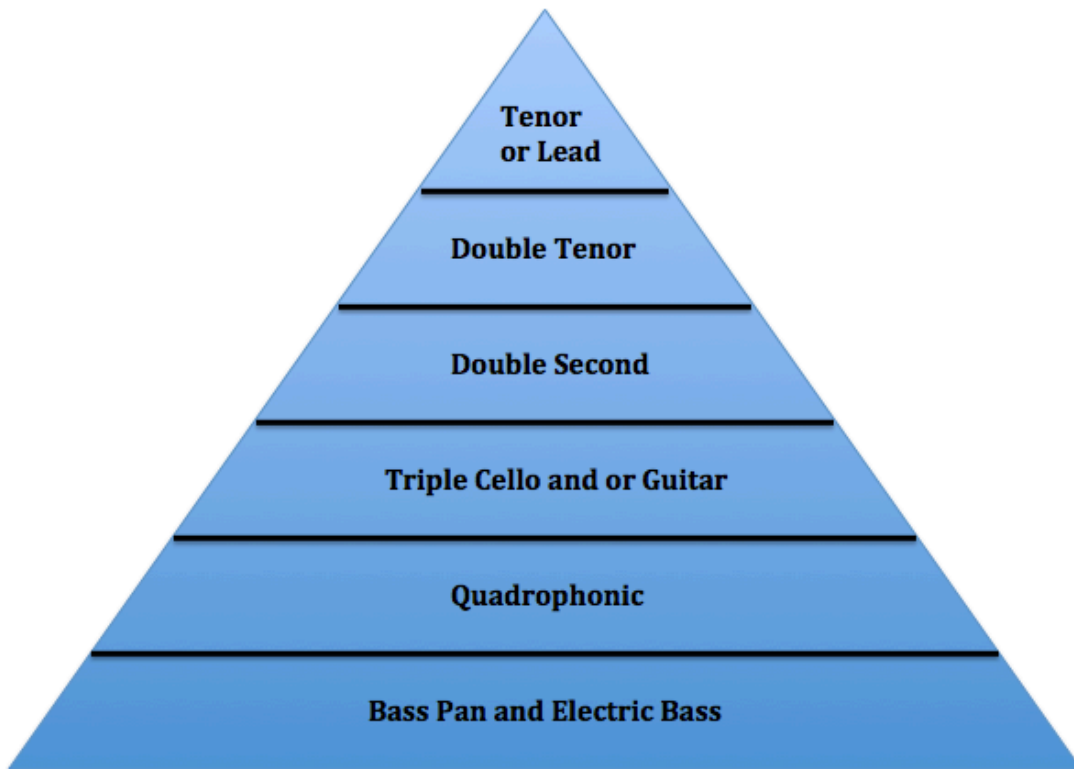
Audio

Calypso Awakening -Various Artists	Exodus Steel Orchestra -Exodus
Lord Kitchener -Klassic Kitchener Vol. 1-3	Trinidad All Stars -The Nostalgic Panyard
Mighty Sparrow -Vol. 1	BP Renegades Steel Orcestra -A Panorama Saga II
Caribbean Jazz Project -self-titled	Our Boys Steel Orchestra -Pan Progress
Caribbean Jazz Project -Island Stories	Our Boys Steel Orchestra -Pan Day and Night
Liam Teague -Emotions of Steel	Ray Holman -In Touch
Liam Teague -Impressions	The Dave Longfellow Ensemble -The DLE Vol.1
Liam Teague and Robert Chappell -For Lack of Better Words	The Dave Longfellow Ensemble -self-titled
Liam Teague and Robert Chappell -Open Window	Chabot Panhandlers -Bounce
Jeff Narell -Callaloo	Chabot Panhandlers -Pan on the Move
Jeff Narell -Wave of Love	Chabot Panhandlers -Three
Miami University Steel Band -Burnin’	Chabot Panhandlers -Sticks
Miami University Steel Band -One More Soca	Calypsociation -Made It
Miami University Steel Band -Three Wishes	Calypsociation - Pan People
Chris Tanner -First Impression	Victor Provost -Her Favorite Shade of Yellow
Gary Gibson -My Two Cents	Andy Narell - Behind the Bridge
Gary Gibson -Yahboy!	Andy Narell - Fire in the Engine Room
Pan Ramajay -Anyway	Andy Narell - Live in South Africa
Pan Ramajay -Back for More	Andy Narell - The Long Time Band
Alan Lightner -Pan Dulce	Andy Narell - Stickman
Tracy Thornton -Pan Can Jam!	Andy Narell -The Passage
Sons of Steel -Carpe Diem	Andy Narell -Tatoom
NIU Steel Band -Return to Taiwan	Andy Narell & Relator -University of Calypso

Instruments:

- The quality of pans you play, just like any band instrument, has an important factor in the quality of your ensemble.
 - There are different finishes to pans that change the timbre and price. (Chrome, Bore & Painted)
 - Painted is OK, but Chrome is better.
 - Bore pans have small holes drilled on the surface around notes, this gives it a louder, brighter sound.
- When deciding on how many of what type of pan, a balanced ensemble is key.
 - EX: 20 flutes and one tuba does not a balanced ensemble make.

PYRAMID OF PANS



Examples:

• 6 piece band:

- 2 L
- 1 DT
- 1 DS
- 1 Guitar
- 1 Bass

• 10 piece band:

- 3 L
- 2 DT
- 2 DS
- 2 Guitar
- 1 Bass

• 20 piece band:

- 7 L
- 3 DT
- 4 DS
- 4 Guitar
- 2 Quads
- 2 Bass

Purchasing:

Something to keep in mind when purchasing pans is that time is not on your side. Since all pans are a handcrafted instrument, it can take anywhere from 3 months to a year or more to receive your pans.

(Prices below are based on a tenor/lead pan)

Vista Pan: www.vistapan.com (800) 335-8647

Price Range: \$700- \$1,600

Tropical Hammer: www.tropicalhammer.com (407) 323-7079

Price Range: \$900 - \$1,000

Coyle Drums: www.coyledrums.com (866) 355-3786

Price Range: \$900-\$4,000

Panyard: www.panyard.com (800) 377-0202

Price Range: \$1,200 - \$1,400

The Steel Pan Store: www.steelpanstore.com (815) 893-9PAN

Price Range: \$1,400-\$3,000

Mannette Steel Drums: www.mannettesteeldrums.com (866) 237-3786

Price Range: \$2,300 - \$4,000

Cases:

Our instruments are not cheap therefore we have to make them last. Cases are very important, but not all pans come with cases. Below are some pictures of makeshift designs for transporting your pans if you cannot afford the case or if it didn't come with one. Cases range from \$100-\$300 depending on the pan.



Suggested Literature:

Historical/Cultural

- Anthony, M. (1989) *Parade of the Carnivals*. Port of Spain, Trinidad: Circle Press.
- Dudley, S. (2004). *Carnival Music in Trinidad*. Oxford University Press.
- Grant, T. (2004). *Carnivalitis: The conflicting discourse of carnival*. Yacos Publications.
- Mason, P. (1998) *Bacchanal! The Carnival Culture of Trinidad*. Temple University Press.
- Smith, A. (2012) *Steel Drums and Steelbands: A History*. Scare Crow press
- Stuemple, S. (1995) *The steelband Movement*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Instructional

- Tanner, C. (2007) *The Steel Band Game Plan: Strategies for starting, building and maintaining your pan program*. Rowman & Littlefield Education.
- Grise, A. & Knapp, D. (2010). *Introduction to Steel Band (Classroom Series & Teaching Manuel)*. Engine Room Publishing.

Tuning:

- Tuning is a necessary periodic cost for steel bands. Some get their pans tuned once or twice a year. But how frequent you should tune them depend on how often you transport them and the atmosphere they're stored in.
- Tuners vary in price. Questions you should ask yourself first: Do you want to pay for them to come to you or do you want to ship?
- Some tuners charge by the hour between \$75 to \$125 and some charge by the pan.
- ***Tuners are like mechanics, you can't survive without a good one and one that you trust!***

Tropical Hammer: www.tropicalhammer.com (407) 323-7079

Price Range: \$400 for 2-hour travel to the school and tuning of 24 individual drums.

Coyle Drums: www.coyledrums.com (866) 355-3786 (Pensacola, FL -but travels ALL over)

Price Range: Caters to you and your situation. Approximately \$100-\$150/hr