ART MUSIC BY CARIBBEAN COMPOSERS: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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INTRODUCTION
Trinidad and Tobago are the southernmost of the Caribbean islands, reaching almost to the coast of Venezuela (Dudley, 2005). Trinidad was originally colonized by Spain, but Spanish “settlement on the island was never extensive” (Brown, 1990, p. 83). In the 18th century, Trinidad welcomed a large number of settlers from the French West Indian colonies. Trinidad also received a number of refugees following the French and Haitian Revolutions. “These influxes immediately infused the island with the morals, customs, and language of the ‘French Creoles’” (Munro, 2005). The annual carnival is one such cultural tradition derived from the island’s French influence (Munro, 2005).

European colonists established plantations, manned first by African slaves, and later, after the abolition, by East Indian indentured labourers. Most of the modern population of Trinidad and Tobago descends from these two groups of labourers, making Trinidad and Tobago one of the most diverse nations in the Caribbean (Dudley, 2005). Trinidad and Tobago achieved independence in 1962 and became a republic in 1974 (McDaniel, 1998).

Musical traditions derived from the East Indian roots of the population include tan singing and chutney (Manuel, 2008). However, Trinidad and Tobago is most famous for its indigenous musical traditions, calypso and soca, and, of course, as the birthplace of its national instrument, the steelpan. Steelbands are widely popular among other Caribbean nations as well as in Caribbean-diaspora communities, but the steelpan originates from Trinidad (Dudley, 2013). A wealth of steelpan competitions exist, including the national events “Panorama” and “Pan Is Beautiful”. Music of all genres, from classical to popular, are arranged for steelbands and performed at these events (McDaniel, 1998).

The island of Tobago is home to tambrin (derived from the word “tambourine”), a unique local musical tradition:

Tambrin bands feature three or more flat frame drums played with the hands (similar to both the Irish bodhran and the frame drums used in the Jumbie Dance of...
Montserrat), a leading melody instrument (typically a violin), a triangle, and sometimes other percussion (Bilby & Neely, 2009, p. 251).

The “Tobago reel”, believed to be of Scottish origin, is a popular song style of tambrin bands. Other tambrin bands have “broader repertoires that include other European-derived dances, such as jigs, waltzes, ‘marching pieces,’ heel and toe polka, and various figures of the quadrille, as well as entirely local forms, such as bell and calypso” (Bilby & Neely, 2009, p. 251).

Since 2003, the music curriculum for schools in Trinidad and Tobago includes steelpan performance and instruction (Remy, 2011). An examination program for steelpan, now used internationally, assesses students’ proficiency, technique and musical literacy. Much of the music composed expressly for the steelpan are examination pieces (Remy, 2011).

The University of the West Indies offers both a Certificate in Music and a BA in Music Arts. The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad offers an AA in Music (Remy, 2011). The Academy for the Performing Arts, part of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, offers various certificates in music performance as well as a BFA in the Performing Arts which includes a music specialization track. Birdsong Academy in Tunapuna has for many years incorporated brass and woodwind tuition and performance into its music programme which is otherwise centred on steelpan. In recent years there have been moves to emulate this model in panyards across the country (A. Walters, personal communication, May 25, 2013).

The Classical Music Development Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago provides support for both classical musical training and performance. The Music Literacy Trust provides financial assistance and sponsorship to musical education programs and to students pursuing music education both in Trinidad and abroad. The Trust is also working to fund efforts to archive pan compositions and scores (Remy, 2011). Calabash Foundation for the Arts, established in 2012, provides funding and support for the development of the arts in Trinidad and Tobago (A. Walters, personal communication, May 25, 2013).

The National Steel Symphony Orchestra (NSSO), formed in 2007, performs a wide classical, contemporary and original repertoire arranged or composed for the “G” family of steelpans. The NSSO also conducts workshops and other training sessions to improve musical techniques and standards in the country. Several members of the NSSO are also composers.

Other groups offering support for art-music performance, appreciation of and education in Trinidad and Tobago include the National Symphony Orchestra, Trinidad and Tobago Youth Philharmonic, the St. Augustine Chamber Orchestra and the newly formed National Philharmonic Orchestra (under the auspices of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, A. Walters, personal communication, May 25, 2013).

Prolific composer Ray Holman has composed in a variety of styles and his “sense of style is firmly rooted ... in the rhythmic sensibility he absorbed” from his years playing and arranging for his steelband, the Invaders (Dudley, 2001, p. 189). Holman composed “Waltz for Iris” in memory of his mother, Iris, who passed away in 2003 (R. Holman, personal communication, June 7, 2013).

Dominique Le Gendre, based in London, is one of many prominent Trinidadian composers and musicians who live and work outside of Trinidad. Her composition “Riff” for string quartet and percussion, was premiered in The Bahamas as part of the International Symposium on Composers of African and Afro-Caribbean Descent. Le Gendre originally composed “Riff” for a battle scene in a radio drama, but she re-arranged it to give
it a more relaxed dance feel (Cariclassical, 2013).

Liam Teague is Associate Professor of Music and Head of Steelband Studies at Northern Illinois University. Through his compositions, he seeks to highlight the beauty, versatility and profundity of the steelpan. This effort is evident in his four-movement piece for steelpan, “A Visit to Hell.” The piece was inspired by a teenaged nightmare of the composer. In the third movement of the piece, “Fanfare for the Devil”, the steelpan is played with three mallets and evokes the sounds of brass instruments “heralding the arrival of the Devil” (L. Teague, personal communication, August 17, 2013).

Adam Walters, originally from the United Kingdom, teaches at the Academy for the Performing Arts, part of the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Since his arrival in Trinidad, he has drawn upon aspects of Trinidadian culture in his compositions. Of particular interest to musicians, Walters’ Chaconia Music catalogue provides access to scores from composers from throughout the region.

Arranging for steelpan orchestra is a highly respected craft in Trinidad and Tobago and, with many new pieces created each year for performance at Panorama, the repertoire is extensive and continues to grow further still. Many arrangers, such as Leon “Smooth” Edwards and Len “Boogsie” Sharpe, demonstrate such virtuosity in the techniques of counterpoint and motivic development that their art can be considered a form of composition in its own right (A. Walters, personal communication, September 27, 2013).

The steelpan has a very large presence in musical life in Trinidad. Using a variety of styles, including classical styles, a wealth of composers write and arrange for the pan. Steelpan music almost defies definition; the instrument lends itself to many playing styles. Steelpan music is a living tradition in Trinidad and efforts to document this tradition continue. Owing to the unique depth and breadth of the steelpan musical tradition in Trinidad, this entry is only able to include a sample of art musical works composed for the pan.

**REFERENCES**


**COMPOSERS**

Damyon Alexander (1979- )
Winnifred Atwell (1914-1983)
Shelton Besson
Patricia Allison Bishop (1940-2011)
Kareem Brown (1979- )
Charles Brunner
Patrick Stanislaus Castagne (1916-2000, born in Guyana)
Earl Caruth
Cary Codrington (1957- )
Geraldine Connor (1952-2011, born in London)
Felix Cross (1953- )
Meta Davis-Cumberbatch
Khion “Khadence” De Las (1988- )
Nigel Diaz (1979- )
Ozzie George
Pelham Goddard (1946- )
Hugh Goodridge
Mia Gormandy (1988- )
Robert Greenidge (aka Greenwich, 1950- )
Vanessa Headley (1989- )
Ray Holman (1944- )
Dominique Le Gendre (1960- )
Akua Leith (1982- )
Vernon “Birdie” Mannette (1929-1999)
David Marcellin (1955-2011)

Irene Umilta McShine
Lennox “Bobby” Mohammed (1942- )
Clarence Morris
Mungal Patasar (1948- )
Alma Pierre
Lennox O. Pierre
Edgar “Junior” Pouchet (1936-2012)
Anthony Prospect (aka Guillermo Antonio Prospect, 1928-2000)
Ron Reid
Jeannine Remy (1961- , born in United States)
Shea Remy (2001- )
Aldwyn Roberts (aka, Lord Kitchener, 1922-2000)
Jit Samaroo (1950- )
Sule Sampson (1977- )
Satanand Sharma (1964- )
Lennox “Boogsie” Sharpe (also spelled “Sharp,” 1953- )
Nigel Smith
Lenor Snider
Liam Teague
Olive Walke
Adam Walters (1972- , born in U.K.)
Rudolph F. Wells (1937- )
Atiba Chike Williams (1990- )
Anthony Williams (1931- )
Orville Wright (1944-2012)
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<th>COMPOSITIONS, by composer</th>
<th>Fis dur e moll (F# major and minor) (2005, for tenor steelpans)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>Inspiration (2004, for tenor steelpans)</td>
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<td>Movement in steel</td>
<td>Measure 50 [Ghost notes] (2005, for piano)</td>
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<td>Panology</td>
<td>A musical journey (2002, for tenor, double tenor, double seconds, guitar, cello &amp; bass steelpans)</td>
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<td>Atwell</td>
<td>A musical journey: The next episode (2004, for tenor pan 1, tenor pan 2, double second pans, guitar pan 1, guitar pan 2, bass pans)</td>
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<td>Jubilee rag</td>
<td>A musical journey: The final chapter (2004, for tenor pan 1, tenor pan 2, double second pans, cello pan 1, cello pan 2, bass pans)</td>
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<td>Besson</td>
<td>Not quite done (2003, for double tenor steelpan)</td>
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<td>Bishop</td>
<td>A simple solo in C (2002, for tenor steelpan)</td>
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<td>Dalinda and the swamp (opera for steelpan)</td>
<td>Steelpan concerto (2007, for tenor steelpan &amp; piano)</td>
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<td>Voice and steel (folk opera)</td>
<td>Steelpan sonata (2008, for tenor steelpan &amp; piano)</td>
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<td>Tempest (for solo pan)</td>
<td>Traffic jam (2006, for tenor steelpan &amp; piano)</td>
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<td>October showers</td>
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<td>Brunner</td>
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<td>Goodridge</td>
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<td>Caruth</td>
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<td>Pan waves (1988, test piece)</td>
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<td>Castagne</td>
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<td>Forged from the love of liberty (National anthem, Trinidad and Tobago)</td>
<td>Nostalgic appreciation</td>
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<td>The fugitive</td>
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<td>Connor</td>
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<td>Carnival messiah</td>
<td>Musical volcano (1991)</td>
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<td>Cross</td>
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<td>The evocation of Papa Mas</td>
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<td>Mass Carib (1987)</td>
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<td>Moon on a rainbow shawl (theatrical score)</td>
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<td>De Las</td>
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<td>Ukishizumi [Ups and downs] (2012, for steelpan ensemble)</td>
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<td>Diaz</td>
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<td>By degrees (2005, for tenor steelpan)</td>
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<td>The call of steel (2007, for tenor, double tenor, double seconds, guitar, cello &amp; bass steelpans; drum set)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Headley
Blue butterfly (2011)
Dream in colour (2011)
Dusk (2010)
Encore (2010, for cello pan)
A gift from above (2007)
Us (2004)

Holman
Changing time
Sad song for a panman
Waltz for Iris (2006)

Le Gendre
Agua donde vas? (song for soprano & piano, based on poetry by Federico Garcia Lorca)
La belle et la bête (2011, opera)
B. D. Women (TV score)
Bird of night (2006, chamber opera, for flute, bass flute, clarinet, bassoon, horn in F, harp, percussion, violin, viola, cello, bass, lyric soprano, mezzo soprano, tenor, baritone, SATB chorus)
Birthday fanfare (2006, chamber music, for horn, B-flat trumpet, tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba, percussion)
A bitter pill (TV score)
Body of a poet (film score)
Booker Prize ’93 (TV score)
Burial at Thebes (2008, dramma per musica, for flute doubling with bass flute, oboe, bassoon, 2 horns in F, B-flat trumpet, percussion, soprano, mezzo soprano, tenor, high baritone, baritone)
The burial of Miss Lady (dance opera, for cello, djembe, singers)
Calling, speaking (2010, chamber music, for trombone, French horn, 2 conch shells, double bass, percussion)

The complete Arkangel Shakespeare.
Dawn chorus fanfare (2007, chamber music, for flute, oboe, B-flat clarinet, bassoon, horn, B-flat trumpet, timpani)
Disabled lives (TV score)
Dreamwinds 1 (2009, chamber music, for vibraphone, violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello, double bass, mezzo-soprano, soprano)
4 arms 2 necks (song, for mezzo-soprano / soprano & guitar/piano)
Fragments 1 (2011, chamber music, for clarinet, trombone, double bass, percussion)
The general (2010, opera, for flute, harp, soprano, baritone)
Le genie humain (2013, string quartet)
The healer (TV score)
How I wonder (2007, song cycle/music theater, for piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, mezzo-soprano, tenor, countertenor)
I is a long memoried woman (2006)
In a different light (2006, dance suite for Kathakali dancers & chamber orchestra, for flute, cor anglais, trumpet in C, trombone, violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello, double bass, percussion, SATB chorus)
In my own home (song, for countertenor & piano)
The inventor (2009, opera, for clarinet, piano/keyboard, mezzo-soprano, baritone)
Jab Molassie (2013, music-theatre, libretto by Caitlyn Kammainga, for tenor, soprano, baritone & mezzo-soprano, clarinet, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, double tenor-steelpan, percussion [2 players], violin, & double bass)
Kaiso for July 27 (TV score)
La petite valse (film score)
Ragga guyls d’bout (TV score)
Riff (2013)
Rio Manzanare dance suite (2005, co-
composed with Celia Reggiani, for cuatro, classical guitar, harp, piano, alto flute, B-flat clarinet, bass clarinet, violin, viola, cello, double bass, percussion

*Room 11* (film score)

*Seven go mad in Peru* (TV score)

*Sixth happiness* (film score)

*Song of Orpheus* (for alto/countertenor & lute/guitar/piano)

*Synchro* (TV score)

*Tales of the islands* (2005, chamber music, for oboe, B-flat clarinet, alto & tenor saxophone, bassoon, horn in F, snare drum, 1st & 2nd violin, viola, cello)

**Leith**

*A cry for revenge* (for pan orchestra)

*Clash of the tritones* (for pan & piano)

**Mannette**

*Birdie’s mambo* (1959)

**McShine**

*Barbara Ann* (test piece)

*People of the islands* (1962, test piece)

**Mohammed**

*Gallopade* (1966)

*The revelation from beyond* (1967)

**Morris**

*In the past*

**Patasar**

*Dreadlocks*

**Pierre**

*Christmas mento*

*Early spring*

*Flowering almond tree*

*Quiet rain*

**Pouchet**

*Guitar man*

*Jule’s overture*

**Prospect**

*Calypso for tenor pan*

*Intermezzo in E flat* (1966, test piece)

*Maracas Bay* (1975, test piece)

*The right and the wrong* (film score)

**Reid**

*Caribbean eye* (TV score)

*The dish ran away with the spoon* (TV score)

*Gayelle* (TV score)

*Morral* (TV score)

*The rig* (TV score)

*Who the cap fits* (TV score)

**Remy, J.**

*Amnicon Falls* (2013, test piece)

*The attacks and aftermath of September 11, 2001* (for steel orchestra)

*Calypsitize* (2013, test piece)

*Caught in a loop* (2013, test piece)

*Double diddy* (2009, test piece)

*Funky grooves* (2013, test piece)

*Grandma’s antique clock* (2013, test piece)

*Jonathan’s piece* (2009, test piece)

*Just a little calypso idea* (2013, test piece)

*A little bluegrass* (2013, test piece)

*The little cloud*

*My cool tune* (2013, test piece)

*My first double stops* (2013, test piece)

*No pretty laces*

*One time blues* (2013, test piece)

*Pan clichés* (2009, test piece)

*Pan hoe down* (2013, test piece)

*Rainforest: A musical postcard from Trinidad*

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Show pan waltz (2013, test piece)
Tropical moods
Waltz with me (2013, test piece)

**Remy, S.**
The black anaconda (2013, test piece)
Chinese dragon appearance (2013, test piece)
Shea’s jam (2006, test piece)

**Roberts**
Sonata variations on “Pan in A minor”

**Samaroo**
Canary’s call
Coleman’s jam
Festival of voices
Jaago [Wake up] (1997, steelpan)
Pan patterns (1985, steelpan)
Pan parranda
Milap (meeting) (1995, steelpan)
Song of Lopinot (1987, steelpan)
Utsav-ki-awaz (Festival of voices) (1995, steelpan)

**Sampson**
Glory (2004, for pan orchestra)
Le conteur fantastique

**Sharma**
Alla Debussy
Amandina echo
Calypso rag
Chaonia rag
Frenetic
Improvisations
Paradise lost
Quick changes
Searching for something
Something old, something new
Study on a vamp
Survival suite
Toccata
Two Indian dancers
Two part invention in C
Two stick shuffle
Where the bee sucks

**Sharpe**
Dance
Dance of the douens
Moods
Ocean rhapsody
Rainforest
Short and sweet
Sunset

**Smith**
The creature waltz (for steelpan)

**Snider**
Child’s play rondo (2013, for solo pan, graded examination piece)
Kiskedee and me (2006, for solo pan, graded examination piece)

**Teague**
Calypsonata (for tenor, double tenor, double seconds, cello, & bass steelpan)
Cell o’vibes (for cello steelpan)
The honeybee (for tenor steelpan)
Impressions (for tenor steelpan)
Love (for tenor steelpan)
Raindrops (for tenor steelpan)
El rio (for tenor steelpan)
Spickle (for solo/tenor/double tenor/double seconds/cello-quad/bass steelpan)
Trying ah ting (for tenor steelpan)
A visit to Hell (for tenor steelpan)
Walke

*Every time ah pass*

Walters (composed in Trinidad)

*Highway* (2010, for horn in F, trombone & tuba)

*Little red riding hood* (2011, for clarinet, trombone, double bass, xylophone & percussion)

*The old yard: Carnival portraits from Trinidad* (2012, for flute doubling piccolo and alto flute, horn in F, trombone, 2 violins, viola, cello, double bass, steel pan/vibraphone & percussion)

*Temple in the sea* (2013, for solo percussionist [vibraphone & tassa drum], voice and pre-recorded tanpura drone)

*Three pieces for beginner recorders and professional string quartet* (2010)

Wells

*Allegro in A major for pan quartet* (1994)

*Alvin’s dream* (1994)

*Before the coup* (1990)

*Coup d’état* (1990)

*Dance of the pannists* (1990)

*Dawn of a new millennium* (for steelband)

*The elusive kisskidee* (1994, for steelband)

*Moonlight in paradise* (1994, for steelband)

*Pan duet for tenor & cello* (aka, *Mi diese*, 1994, for steelband)

*Pan in the meadows* (1993, for steelband)

*Pan Orpheus* (1993, for steelband)

*Pan symphony in C minor* (1991)

*Le petit scherzo pour les enfants* (1992)

*Shades of Port-of-Spain* (1989)

*Steel & brass* (1994)

*Trinidad, my beloved* (1990)

*A voice inside* (1994, for steelband)

Williams

*Alice in Wonderland* (for piano, 8-part choir, soprano, alto & tenor)

*How doth the little crocodile*

*Twinkle twinkle little bat*

*A whiting and a snail*

*Speak roughly*

*Tis the voice of the lobster*

*Soup of the evening*

*She’s all my fancy painted him*

*Arpeggio and trill study in F* (for tenor or lead pan)

*Bagatelle* (for piano)

*Damien’s tango* (for piano)

*Duino* (piano quintet)

*Family* (unfinished, for piano)

*Lizandra*

*Leeanna*

*Impressioni di Inghilterra* (2007-08, for tenor or lead pan)

*Last thoughts* (2006, test piece, for double second pan)

*Night of sadness* (2006, test piece, for tenor or lead pan)

*Overture* (for steel orchestra, orchestra)

*Pan sunrise* (2006, test piece)

*Sonata for piano and double second* (unfinished)

*Sound of sight* (2006, test piece)

*Toccata in D* (for organ)

*Waltz* (for violin & piano)

*Waltz* (for piano)

*Waltz for piano and pan* (2006, test piece)

Anthony Williams

*Dance Matilda dance* (2006, test piece)

*Trini waltz* (2006, test piece)
Wright

Pan history

FILM and TV SCORES

Le Gendre


RECORDINGS

Caruth


Track 11. Pan waves

Castagne


Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra; Peter Breiner, conductor. Hong Kong: Marco Polo.

Track 12: Forged from the love of liberty (1:12)


Track 18. Forged from the love of liberty (1:12)


Track 12. The fugitive (3:32)

Holman


Woodbrook, Trinidad and Tobago: Woodbrook Music.

Sand Point reggae (6:08)

Playa larga (5:09)

Changing time (7:31)

Waltz for Iris (3:53)

Heroes of the nation (9:37)

Sock it with steel (4:10)


Ray’s medley (4:25)

My band (10:36)

Steelband paradise (9:19)

Special brew (13:55)

Pan woman (10:21)

Carnival is for woman (12:00)

Le Gendre
Arkangel Shakespeare. Auburn, CA:

All’s well that ends well. (3 discs, 157 min.)

Antony and Cleopatra. (3 discs, 203 min.)

As you like it. (2 discs, 149 min.) ISBN 978-
1-932219-04-3.

The comedy of errors. (2 discs, 88 min.)

Coriolanus. (3 discs, 189 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-06-7.

Cymbeline. (3 discs, 199 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-07-4.

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932219-08-1.

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932219-17-3.

King Lear. (3 discs, 203 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-18-0.

Love’s labours lost. (2 discs, 147 min.) ISBN

Macbeth. (2 discs, 139 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-20-3.

Measure for measure. (2 discs, 149 min.)

The merchant of Venice. (2 discs, 137 min.)

The merry wives of Windsor. (2 discs, 135

A midsummer night’s dream. (2 discs, 139
min.)

Much ado about nothing. (2 discs, 132 min.)

Othello. (3 discs, 181 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-26-5.

Pericles. (2 discs, 137 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-27-2.

Richard II. (3 discs, 172 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-28-9. Richard III. (3 discs, 214 min.)

Romeo and Juliet. (3 discs, 183 min.) ISBN
978-1-932219-30-2.

The taming of the shrew. (2 discs, 137 min.)

The tempest. (2 discs, 131 min.) ISBN 978-1-
932219-32-6.

Timon of Athens. (2 discs, 138 min.) ISBN
978-1-932219-33-3.

Titus Andronicus. (3 discs, 162 min.) ISBN
978-1-932219-34-0.

Troilus and Cressida. (3 discs, 185 min.)

Twelfth night. (2 discs, 131 min.) ISBN 978-
1-932219-36-4.

The two noble kinsmen. (3 discs, 177 min.)

The winter’s tale. (3 discs, 173 min.) ISBN
Patasar
Track 1. Dreadlocks

Samaroo
Disc 2:
Song of Lopinot (3:39)
Utsav-ki-awaz [Festival of voices] (4:55)
Jaago (Wake up) (3:35)
Coleman’s jam (4:41)
Pan patterns (4:30)
Milap [Meeting] (3:13)

Sharpe
Track 1: Woman is boss (9:26)
The sweet groove of phase II Steelband [CD]. (1987)
Track 2: Dis feeling nice
Track 10. Birthday party

Teague
Track 11. Raindrops (6:29)
For lack of better words [CD]. (2002). Dekalb, IL: Rhythmic Union Records. (With Robert Chappell.)
Track 8. The honeybee (7:48)
Track 9. A visit to Hell
Track 12. Impressions

Track 3. El rio (4:03)
Track 6. Cell o ’vibes (5:37)
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Sharma


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[Includes Teague’s *Raindrops*]


[Includes Sharma’s *Quick changes*]


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