

# Bongo Fury



Bongo Fury & The Calypso Cowboy  
Is  
Raymond Gonzalez, Atticus Gonzalez, & Jeff Bowman



A musical history of 50 years performing on the steel drum (pan). Veteran Fresno musicians Jeffrey Bowman (Wild Blue Yonder Band, Randy Sharp Band, Karen Brooks Band, and The Fellow Travelers) and world class congero, Raymond Gonzalez (Los Hooligans and Danielle Rondero & The Nitty Gritty) perform an eclectic musical hybrid informed by traditional Latin and Caribbean rhythms as well as modern jazz, Calypso, and Afro-beat. They will perform music that can express joy, hope, and be a vessel to resist tyranny, using a rhythmic foundation born in Trinidad-Tobago.

Calypso, a type of folk song primarily from Trinidad though sung elsewhere in the southern and eastern Caribbean islands. The subject of a calypso text, usually witty and satiric, is a local and topical event of political and social import, and the tone is one of allusion, mockery, and double entendre.



In Caribbean music, the engine room is the core group of instruments that create the rhythm and tempo of a song. These instruments are usually percussion instruments like the drum set, congas, timbales, and a car brake drum. The engine room is the foundation of the song, establishing the groove and pulse for other musicians.



# The Show

Introduction-On An Island

Child's Play

Lindstead Market

Ima

Haiyo Silver

And I Love Her

Cole

Engine Room-Trouble

Hot Hot Hot



Tambo bamboo is a percussion instrument that originated in Trinidad and Tobago and is a precursor to the steelpan:

- Origins

Tambo bamboo originated in Trinidad after the British banned the use of skinned drums in 1884. The British wanted to silence the percussive culture of African instruments, which were used to express culture, celebrations, and religion.

- Name

The word "tamboo" comes from the French word tambour, which means "drum".

- Instruments

Tambo bamboo instruments include dry, hollow bamboo poles of varying lengths that produce different pitches when struck on the ground. Other instruments used in tamboo bamboo bands include biscuit tins, oil drums, and bottle-and-spoon.

- Evolution

In the 1930s, tamboo bamboo musicians began to experiment with metallic substitutes, leading to the development of the steelpan. The steelpan has the same tripartite sections as the tamboo bamboo: lead, midrange, and boom or bass.

- Carnival

Tambo bamboo was the dominant instrument at carnival at the turn of the 20th century. It's still played by carnival-goers in Trinidad today.



*“I always knew in my heart one day  
that my work would find its way,  
I could not tell you how,  
there was no one there for me to  
show the way  
but I figured it out.  
I figured it all through for all of  
you to see today.”  
~Ellie Manette*

Born in Sans Souci, [Trinidad](#),<sup>[3]</sup> Mannette as a young child developed a passion for metal and tools for metalworking, and would become engaged in the evolution of the phenomenon of sounding steel. At the age of 11, he was a member of Alexander's Ragtime Band created by Alexander Ford.<sup>[4]</sup> From the middle of the 1930s, percussion bands of different quarters of [Port-of-Spain](#) were in competition with each other. Legend says that Mannette was the first person to use a discarded oil barrel to build a steel pan: "He sank the lid to create a tensed playing surface and fired the metal to improve the acoustic properties."





## Trouble Every Day

Well I'm about to get upset  
From watchin' my TV  
Been checkin' out the news  
Until my eyeballs fail to see  
I mean they say that every day  
Is just another rotten mess  
And when it's gonna change, my  
friends  
Is anybody's guess  
So I'm watchin' and I'm waitin'  
Hopin' for the best  
Even think I'll go to prayin'  
Every time I hear 'em sayin'  
That there's no way to delay  
That trouble comin' every day  
No way to delay  
That trouble comin' every day

-Frank Zappa 1965



Tenor Steel Pan



# Calypso Blues

Sittin' by de ocean  
Me heart, she feel so sad,  
Sittin' by de ocean,  
Me heart, she feel so sad  
Don't got de money  
To take me back to Trinidad.

Fine calypso woman,  
She cook me shrimp and rice,  
Fine calypso woman,  
She cook me shrimp and rice  
These Yankee hot dogs  
Don't treat me stomach very nice.

In Trinidad, one dollar buy  
Papaya juice, banana pie,  
Six coconut, one female goat,  
An' plenty fish to fill de boat.  
One bushel bread, one barrel wine,  
An' all de town, she come to dine.

But here is bad, one dollar buy  
Cup of coffee, ham on rye.  
Me throat she sick from necktie,  
Me feet hurt from shoes.  
Me pocket full of empty,  
I got Calypso blues.

These Yankee girl give me big scare,  
Is black de root, is blond de hair.  
Her eyelash false, her face is paint,  
And pads are where de girl she ain't!

She jitterbug when she should waltz,  
I even think her name is false.  
But calypso girl is good a lot,  
Is what you see, is what she got.

Sittin' by de ocean  
Me heart, she feel so sad,