

Baron rocks at concert

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Popular calypsonian Baron celebrates his 40th anniversary as a professional entertainer by holding court at the National Academy for the Performing Arts. Photos: Abraham Diaz

The National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Port-of-Spain might have been built to accommodate 1,200 seated patrons, but all the 800-plus culture lovers attending Baron's (Timothy Watkins) 40th anniversary concert on August 19, wanted to do was dance. As fate would have it they got music to do just that on the show presented by Randy Glasgow Productions (RGP) which featured superb music accompaniment by Pelham Goddard and The Band Roots for a first-class performance of Baron and "the pips"—the chorus duo comprising Marilyn Williams and Ramona Pompey. Johnny King and Scrunter (Irwin Reyes Johnson) were ideal guest performers on the programme, and added to the magical outpouring of music.

Slow wines, ballroom dancing, conga-lines, as well as scenes of jumping and waving, filled the precincts of the Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts) Auditorium as satisfied patrons, who were in no way shy about having

fun, reacted euphorically to the delightful groovy and fast-paced music melodies on offer from a cast pleased in the delivery of it. From music to comedy and the overall great vibes that pervaded, patrons were glad they chose Baron in Concert to jump-start their weekend of entertainment. CT Vibe 105.1FM disc jockey CG and comedian Tommy Joseph hosted the event and succeeded at generating the right amount of humour, whether they poked fun at one another, patrons or world events.

Baron did not achieve four decades of music success and excellence alone and he wanted to make this clear to his disciples. So the “Sweet Soca Man” publicly praised the men who had been responsible for shaping his lyrical and music content. They were Winsford “Joker” Des Vignes and Leston Paul. Baron went further and presented them with awards. Paul was already in the spotlight as part of the line-up of musicians that comprised roots, while a rather frail Des Vignes was seated in the audience. But as the veteran lyricist struggled to take up the invitation to come centre-stage, Baron said to him: “Take your time, your partner coming for you.” Scrunter has made a call for a selection from the works of the late Grand Master of calypso Lord Kitchener to be played at every show held at the main auditorium at NAPA. He won the support of the audience on this call.

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