

Hello everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap 3/16/23

Last week, we welcomed Mat Britain who introduced our group to the steel pan! The steel pan is a pitched percussion instrument originating from Trinidad and Tobago in the 1930s. The instrument resulted from musicians repeatedly hitting metal surfaces, such as garbage lids and oil containers after their instruments were taken away from them during slavery. As people continued to use these surfaces as makeshift instruments, they realized they could manipulate the resulting pitch by creating dents in the surfaces of these materials. Ellie Mannette was the first person to create a steel pan with multiple pitches.

Mat introduced our group to three different sized steel pans. The smallest that he showed us was called a "lead pan" which produced the highest pitches of the three instruments. Mat played a Calypso piece called "This feelin' nice" to demonstrate the sound of the lead pan. He also demonstrated how other genres, such as jazz, could be reproduced on the steel pan. He then played the jazz standard "Autumn Leaves" for the group.


The second instrument Mat showed us was the "double seconds." This instrument consists of two barrels due to the larger indentations needed to create a deeper sound. Mat played "Till there was you" from the Music Man for the group on the double seconds.


Finally, we were introduced to the "guitar pans" which consisted of three barrels, which together contained larger indentations to make up one musical scale. This was the lowest pitched instrument that Mat shared with us.

We also learned that multiple steel pans are often played together in a "steel pan band" with different sized pans creating different harmonies in a piece of music. The instrument is also played with very lightweight aluminum tubes with rubber tops. The lightweight mallets are used so the instrument is not damaged or made out of tune when being played.

If you'd like to learn more about Mat or watch the recording from last week's music hour, you can use the links below:

https://www.innovativepercussion.com/artists/mat_britain

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 [video1639782916.mp4](#)

CI Music Hour Tomorrow 3/22/23

Tomorrow musicologist, Johanna Boyer, from Med EI will be joining us to discuss a music training tool created specifically for cochlear implant users called "Meludia."

Johanna recently published a music training study with cochlear implant user using this program. I have attached the paper to this email for those who are interested.

See you all tomorrow!