



SWEDISH brothers Lars (left) and Mats Hansson pose with their soca recording.

Swedish soca? It's hot fo' so

By **PETER RAY BLOOD**, Staff Writer

HOT PEPPER and spicy local food served as the inspiration for a Swede to switch from jazz to calypso. Having married a Trinidadian, and tasted the irresistible local cuisine, Lars Hansson composed and recorded *Hot Fo' So*. He said that the song was dedicated to the hot peppers of the country and "the women with sweet hands out there."

Lars is in Trinidad to launch his record with his brother Mats. The Hanssons come from a musical family, with Lars doing vocals and guitar; Mats looking after keyboards and drum machine programming; and older brother Dan sharing background vocals with Anna Persson and Susanne Thoren.

Lars got his first taste of soca music in 1989 when he visited Trinidad for carnival with his Trinidadian wife. "I just fell in love with the music," he said.

"I was particularly impressed with *Nani Wine* by Crazy."

It was Crazy's calypso which inspired Lars to translate *Nani Wine* and record it for a Swedish audience. "I wanted to see whether Swedes would understand the calypso better in their native language," said Lars. He is yet to find out, as the record will not be launched in Sweden until August. Lars is hoping to make his debut on a local stage on July 31 when he hopes to perform both sides of the single at Mas Camp Pub.

Meanwhile, back in Sweden, Lars and Mats head a company of computer consultants. They also own Portamento Musik, the label on which their soca single was recorded.

The brothers originally played for a group called Prospect, playing fusion jazz/rock music. Then, bitten by the soca bug, they played with the Swedish-based soca band called Soca Rebels. This band comprised three musicians from Trinidad and Tobago, one from Guyana, and three from Sweden.

THE HANSSONS have since formed their own soca band *Soca Jamm* r'seight months ago.

About choosing *Nani Wine* for their debut soca recording, Lars said: "I just liked it, the melody, the verse, chorus...everything. If this song gets popular in Sweden, we already have a commission with Crazy to do another of his songs. I have spoken to Chris Rahaman, Crazy's manager in New York."

The Hanssons both hinted at wanting one day to sing in a calypso tent for carnival celebrations in Trinidad.

"We're taking this thing one day at a time, but if it strikes gold, we're prepared to tour the world singing calypso," said a beaming Lars Hansson.

