

SOCA IN SWEDEN!

By **GARY CARDINEZ**

A LOVE story between a Trini beauty and her lover has seen soca going to Sweden!

But nine years ago when Swede Lars Hansson married Trinidadian Sharmaine Sydney, he never expected he would come to this country so often.

Lars knew he had to visit his in-laws in TnT but that was all.

Now he has fallen in love with soca and visits TnT mainly to follow up on our music.

The Swede so loves the music of TnT that he and his brother, Mats, have formed a band, "Soca Rebels" back in Swede.

Lars told *Sunday PUNCH*:

"I first came to TnT back in 1985 to visit my in-laws.

"I immediately fell for your music and I have been coming back ever since," he revealed.

"Before, I used to come here because of my wife, now I come because of the music.

"I come to get first-hand knowledge of the changes you make and to get the vibes to take back home."

**- Thanks
to these
great
lovers
of local
culture**



**LARS HANSSON and his wife, SHARMAINE ...
paving the way for local artistes**

Lars and Mats were into pop, rock and jazz before they were bitten by the soca bug.

Now Lars composes and Mats arranges their own songs.

Their first try at soca was Crazy's "Nani Wine" back in 1990.

"I like the kicking rhythm in soca, it just makes you feel to dance," he said.

"The lyrics are such fun, of course, you have to learn about the humour, but it's fun.

"Sweden is now beginning to accept soca music and we have already had Crazy, Sparrow, Arrow and Carl & Carol Jacobs perform there," said Lars.

"There is a market for soca in Sweden and we are paving the way for your artistes.

"Soca Rebels play soca music only and we are well accepted.

"We are trying to do a recording this year.

"So far we have only done cover versions of songs but we are trying to do an album with our original composition."

Sweden has about 10 Carnivals throughout its cities and the Soca Rebels often tour the entire country.

