



# SWEDEN'S SOCA REBELS

**'WE TAKE THE MUSIC HIGHER'**

**By GARY CARDINEZ**

**SOCA will be prominently featured at the upcoming Athletic World Championship in Sweden next month.**

Sweden's one and only soca band, Soca Rebels, will play music to thousands of patrons at the games.

Mats and Lars Hansson are committed to spreading the gospel of soca in far-flung Sweden.

The musical brothers have been on their soca crusade for 10 years now and are determined to take soca higher.

Now in Trinidad, arranger Mats told *Inside D Biz*:

"Before I heard soca I was into jazz.

"Since then, it's the only music I have been listening to; it has a strange effect on me."

Brother Lars who composes music for the band, chipped in:

"Not many people in Sweden know soca, but whenever they hear it, they all love it.

"The closest thing to soca is Tropicopop, a mixture of African and Caribbean music.

"We are trying our best to spread soca and we always let people know it comes from Trinidad," he revealed.

"Soca Rebels' (our band) try to play in all the Carnivals in Sweden from May to August.

"During the winter, we play in clubs and pubs.

"At present, the radio stations only play rock, hip hop and reggae," he explained.

Mats went on: "The problem with soca in Sweden is the late arrival of records.

"Most of the music is old stuff, if we don't come to Trinidad, we will not have the latest."

Soca Rebels is so committed to promoting soca that the band has recruited two more professional female singers/dancers.

Lars said: "We are preparing to record new material later this year."

According to him: "We take the music higher."