

CARNIVAL 2014

Sweden born Sarah sings with Imij

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She said, "Now I'm with Imij & Co, frontlining with the band, I am very excited about the new season."

Hansson, who grew speaking with two languages and experiencing two cultures, has been travelling back and forth between Trinidad and Sweden since childhood.

She grew up listening to music that was playing on the stereo at home.

At first it was jazz, fusion, rock and blues but from 1990 her father, Lars Hansson started to play soca and calypso on the stereo. It was also then he started his band Soca Rebels, the first and only band in Sweden solely focused on Soca.

In 2005, apart from performing for 11,000 people in the Gothenburg Sport Arena Scandinavium for the opening of Partille Handball Cup, she started fusing her Caribbean background with pop and introduced a style she named CariPop. She released "Never Knew" in that style of music.

And as Dazell went to Karma and did his first gig with the band on Sunday at Hilo's appreciation party, in came Shiraz Ojeer in Imij & Co after working with Karma for many



MALAIKA BALLANTYNE years as a booking agent.

Imij & Co starts off their 2014 season with UWI's Brazil Carnival Fete later this month.

Chutney Soca attracts overseas acts

By SEETA PERSAD

IT'S the countdown to Carnival 2014 and scores of artists in the Soca and Chutney Soca are submitting their new material for a judging.

All for a chance to appear in the annual national Carnival competitions. Promoter of Chutney Soca Monarch, George Singh has reported 125 artistes have submitted CDs for screening. From this number Singh said 40 percent of these are from foreign artistes.

"In recent years this competition was transmitted worldwide and we have had comments from people in many countries including the UK and USA," Singh said. As a result, this year is seeing an increase in applications from overseas artistes. There has also been a number of top-name and seasoned soca artistes, Singh says, who are entering the chutney arena for the first time.

The Southex company will be screening for two days, after

which 35 names will be called for the semi-final competition. This year's Lotto Plus Chutney Soca Monarch semi-finals will be held at Rienzi Complex, Couva of February 1. Names will be released on January 16.

Singh noted a large contingent of artistes and supporters are expected from the neighbouring country of Guyana for this year's event.

"Having hosted a preliminary competition in Guyana one week ago we have selected quite a number of acts for the semi-finals on February 1," Singh said.

Guyanese TV host, WR Reaz, will co-host the TV broadcast together with Vashite Doorga from Canada and Wendy Khan from New York. TT's JW and Serala Ramlogan will host the main show on the big stage.

Going with the theme, "More than an Event", this competition hopes to deliver one of the most spectacular events yet this year. Singh says, the Chutney Soca Monarch is a true representation of the devel-

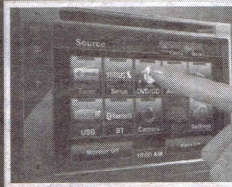
opment of culture, the people and the nation. "An entire industry has been built around this event over the last eighteen years and has become one of the most anticipated events on the annual calendar."

Sponsors this year include: National Lotteries Control Board, BMobile and Blink Broadband, Guardian Media Limited, The National Carnival Commission, Firepower Fireworks, KFC, AS Brydens, Carib Brewery Limited, Edoos Welding Limited, and the Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism.

The 2013 Chutney Soca Monarch Raymond Ramnarine attained his crown through text voting system. He sang "I eh Marringing Again" to dethrone young singer KI Persad who went into competition with the song, "Friends for the Night". Raymond took home \$1 million while KI had to settle for third position.

Seven-time monarch Rikki Jai came in second position singing "Ent You Know".

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