



# ST. KITTS-NEVIS NATIONAL CARNIVAL



## Sugar Mas 50 SENIOR CALYPSO CRITERIA

### Calypso Judging Criteria

The Criteria for judging is as follows:

- **Lyrics** - 40 points
- **Music** - 30 points
- **Performance** - 25 points
- Total** - 95

### The Lyrics section is categorised into four areas:

#### **1. LYRICS - 40 points:**

##### **a. Expression of Theme - 5 points:**

- i. Does the calypso have a distinct recognizable theme? How well do the words support and develop the theme?
- ii. Are the verses linked to the theme or are they scattered?
- iii. Do the verses flow logically back into the chorus to re-enforce the theme and meaning of the song?

##### **b. Word Craft - 15 points:**

- i. Appropriateness of choice of words.
- ii. Use of satire, subtlety, double entendre, irony, wit, humour, puns, play on word.
- iii. Style and skill of composition
- iv. Quality of rhyme

##### **c. Substantive Content - 15 points:**

- i. Marriage of lyric and melody/arrangement.
- ii. Do the words complement each other smoothly and comfortably or is the song over-crowded with the singer having to rush the words to get them in?
- iii. How smoothly do the lyrics flow along with the arrangement?

##### **d. Creativity - 5 points:**

- i. Unusually interesting interpretation of the topic, or the effective incorporation of local colour/experiences into the calypso.

## **The Music section is categorised into three (3) areas:**

### **2. MUSIC - 30 POINTS:**

- a. Melody - 15 points:**
  - i. Strength and sweetness of the melody of verses, singing chorus and band chorus.
  - ii. Does the tune carry the message effectively? Is it married to the lyrics in terms of measurement?
  - iii. Does it capture the mood of the theme?
- b. Arrangement - 10 points:**
  - i. Does it suit the mood and tempo?
  - ii. Are particular instruments used to specially create and convey mood?
  - iii. Does it have the proper key or orchestration?
  - iv. Does the key carry the melody properly?
  - v. Effectiveness of backup vocals, (if any).
- c. Originality - 5 points:**
  - i. Are the melody and arrangement original?
  - ii. Are pieces of other people's music included?
  - iii. Are there novel musical ideas in the arrangement or melody?
  - iv. Is there any successful incorporation of unusual musical instruments or combination of instruments.

## **The Performance section is categorised into two (2) areas:**

### **3. PERFORMANCE - 25 POINTS:**

- a. Rendition - 15 points**
  - i. How the calypso is actually. Is it in calypso styles?
  - ii. Does the singer use his voice effectively to interpret the song? Are there nuances of vocal chords?
  - iii. Is the singer in the proper key? Is the manner of singing in keeping with the mood of the song?
  - iv. How good is the diction?
- b. Presentation - 10 points:**
  - i. The use of body, the hands, face, body contortions, energy.
  - ii. The use of the stage.
  - iii. The use of the microphone.
  - iv. Are these being used to more effectively communicate the song and to improve the understanding of the lyrics?