

# Unlock the Beautiful World of Steelpan with Hal Leonard Steelpan Method by Louis Harris

## INTRODUCTION

This method book is geared towards the beginning student and will examine approaches to playing the steelpan.

The steelpan is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago and is generally referred to as the "pan"; though, outside of the Caribbean, it is mainly known by the name "steel drum." In its native country, the highest pitched pan is called the "tenor pan" or "lead pan"; however, since the range of the pan mimics the range of a soprano, it can also be called "soprano pan."

One who plays the steelpan is called a pannist (sometimes spelled "panist").

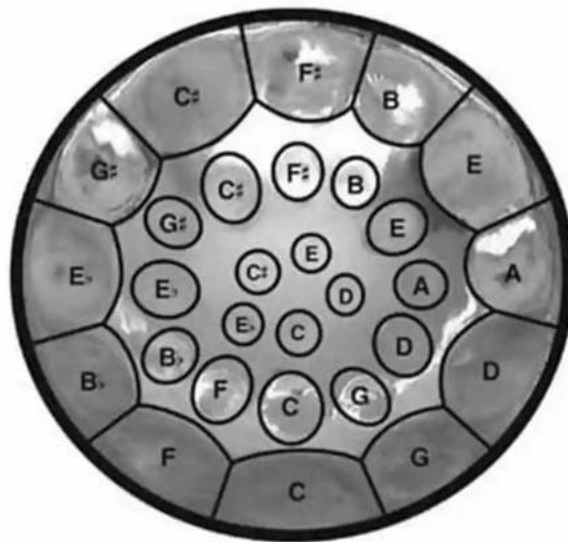
"Steelband" or "steel orchestra" are the terms used to describe an ensemble consisting of the different steelpan voices (e.g., soprano, double second, cello, bass, etc.).

While the pan has made significant advances in its relatively short history, a completely standardized and accepted placement of notes is still not firmly established (though there are some note layouts which are more common than others).

The great steelpan innovator, Anthony "Tony" Williams, created a soprano pan (called the "Spider Web") with a note pattern based on the circle of fourths and fifths, and this is the design used in this method. Many of the approaches to playing and musical examples given will be relevant, regardless of the style of soprano pan.

Steelpan also tend to vary in terms of range; the examples in this book are specifically catered to soprano pans that have C4 (middle C) as the lowest pitch.

## STEELPAN NOTE CHART



Are you fascinated by the unique and captivating sound of steelpan? Do you dream of mastering this marvelous instrument and becoming a true virtuoso? Look no further, as the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method by Louis Harris is here to help you unleash your steelpan skills like never before!

## Why Choose the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method?

Learning to play the steelpan can be a challenging yet rewarding journey. It requires dedication, patience, and expert guidance. Thanks to the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method crafted by the renowned steelpan virtuoso, Louis Harris, the path to steelpan mastery becomes much easier.



### Hal Leonard Steelpan Method

by Louis Harris (Kindle Edition with Audio/Video)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 49988 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 32 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



So, what makes this method stand out from the rest? It's simple – the comprehensive approach, engaging teaching style, and rich learning materials make it an ideal choice for beginners and experienced players alike.

### Unleashing the Magic of Steelpan

With the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method, Louis Harris takes you on a transformative journey through the world of steelpan. From the basics of holding the instrument to playing complex melodies, this method covers it all.

The lessons are carefully structured to ensure a gradual learning curve. As you progress through the method, you'll witness yourself growing as a steelpan

player, developing a deep understanding of the instrument's nuances and techniques.

## Comprehensive Learning Materials

The Hal Leonard Steelpan Method offers a vast array of learning materials to support your musical growth. The book comes complete with detailed musical notation, chord diagrams, and explanatory text, allowing you to grasp each concept effortlessly.

# CALYPSO

Calypso, like the steelpan, originated in Trinidad and Tobago and is the style of music most commonly associated with steel-pans. This music can be instrumental or vocal and examples of great Calypsonians are Lord Kitchener (Aldryn Roberts), Mighty Sparrow (Singer Francisco), and David Rudder.

Most calypsos have a heavy presence of **syncopation**, which is the placement of rhythmic accents on weak beats in the measure. A weak beat could be described as the "ands" you say in between each number while counting out the beats of a measure. A number of the musical examples that follow will be relatively simple calypsos.

Before moving on, check out the D major scale, which is used in the calypso songs that follow. This key contains the notes C# and F#, as seen in the key signature.

### D Major Scale

W W H W W W H H W W W H W W  
R R L R R L L R R L L R R L R R

Here are a few rhythms that frequently occur in the calypso style, featuring syncopation:

### Calypso Rhythms

#1  
Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

#2  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

#3  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Moreover, with the included play-along audio tracks, you'll have the opportunity to practice alongside real steelpan performances. Immerse yourself in the exhilarating rhythms and melodies, and feel the joy of playing in a steelpan ensemble right from the comfort of your own home.

## **Unlocking Your Creativity**

The Hal Leonard Steelpan Method not only focuses on technical proficiency but also encourages your creative expression. Through a series of fun exercises and improvisation techniques, you'll learn how to unleash your own musical ideas and develop your unique sound.

## **Why Louis Harris is the Perfect Guide**

Louis Harris, the genius behind this method, is a true authority in the world of steelpan. With his decades of experience as a performer, arranger, and educator, he knows exactly how to guide students towards success.

His passion for steelpan is contagious, and his teaching style is both engaging and effective. Louis Harris understands the challenges that learners face and provides valuable insights and techniques to overcome them.

## **The Joy of Playing Steelpan**

Finally, the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method reminds learners of the sheer joy and pleasure that comes from playing the steelpan. Each lesson is designed to inspire and motivate, reminding you of the amazing musical possibilities that lie ahead.

So, if you're ready to embark on a remarkable journey filled with rhythm, melody, and a lot of fun, the Hal Leonard Steelpan Method by Louis Harris is your ultimate

guide. Unlock your steelpan potential and witness the magical transformation that awaits you!

The Hal Leonard Steelpan Method by Louis Harris is a game-changer for anyone seeking to master the steelpan. With its comprehensive approach, engaging teaching style, and wealth of learning materials, this method provides an unrivaled learning experience.

So, why wait? Dive into the captivating world of steelpan with Hal Leonard Steelpan Method today and let your musical journey begin!



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(Steel Pan). The Hal Leonard Steelpan Method is designed for anyone just learning to play the steelpan. This easy-to-use beginner's guide takes you through the basics of the instrument and its technique. The accompanying audio includes demonstration tracks for all the examples in the book. It covers: stance \* holding the mallets \* types of strokes \* tone production and volume control \* stickings \* rolls \* scales \* calypsos \* many songs and exercises \* basic music reading \* steelpan anatomy and maintenance \* steelpan history \* and more.



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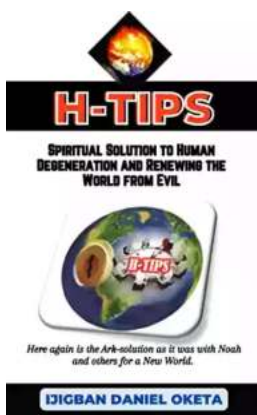
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