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# SUNDAY MIX



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**Wayne Bowman**

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In 1974 Max Reimann and friends formed a brass band they named, IG Blech (I gay blech), which loosely translated means industrial (trade union) cheap tin. Reimann explained to the *Express* that the name was chosen as a joke.

IG Blech was in Trinidad as guests of the German Embassy and performed at the Fiesta Plaza, MovieTowne, Port of Spain last Wednesday and at the Exodus Steel Orchestra panyard in St Augustine last Thursday.

During the time the band was formed, Reimann and his early band mates worked in the industrial sector of Berlin, Germany. This was a period of mass demonstrations for better working conditions and higher wages and music was a big part of the protests taking place.

Today IG Blech comprises 40 members but only 17 of them made the trip to Trinidad. In fact the band came here after completing a tour of Central America where they visited Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica. Accompanying Reimann, who plays tuba, on his visit to the *Express* were trumpeter, Wieland Lehnert and Renate Klaus who plays alto saxophone.

Klaus said the age range in the band is from 21 years to 68 years and they play everything from jazz and German folk music to pop, soul, classical, Latin, African and other world music. Lehnert added that the band plays on the streets of Berlin as well as at corporate and social events.

Everyone in IG Blech has a regular day job and they play in the band as a hobby, but do appreciate when they get paying gigs.

The section of the band that visited T&T consisted of four trumpeters, three trombonists, one tuba player, two baritone saxophonists, two soprano saxophonists, two tenor saxophonists, two alto saxophonists, one clarinetist, one flautist and two percussionists. When the interview was done the musicians were hoping they would get an opportunity to play at least one piece alongside the Exodus pannists at the panyard.

"We are really hoping to play at least one piece with the steelband, which would be a first for us because on the tour we have not had the opportunity to perform with any of the musicians in the places we have been. That would really be something. One of our members actually plays the pan and is looking forward to the concert with the steelband," Klaus said.

## INDUSTRIAL JAZZ PLAYS IN T&T



**CHEAP TIN:** Members of IG Blech get fancy at the Fiesta Plaza, MovieTowne, Port of Spain. -Photo: ROBERTO CODALLO