

WORLD MUSIC

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

WD-TO1 United States 1990

HEBRIDES OVERTURE * (LIVE)

WD – Ethnic – Instrumental

Comp: Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Arr: Kendall Lewis

Perf: MAT SECURITIES MERRYTONES

Prod. Co: Flying Fish Records Inc.; Chicago, IL

Rec. Loc: Jean Pierre Complex, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Time: 9:39

Compilation **CD:** THE HEART OF STEEL

Flying Fish FF 70522 (Tk 2)

Notes: This is an ethnic arrangement of Mendelssohn's music played on steel oil drums. This practice of arranging classical music for the steelpan seems to be relatively common judging by the number of pieces of this sort which have been recorded. (Thomas 1992)

One critic commented – “To make a good recording of a steel band is a rather difficult undertaking. Only small groups can be recorded indoors, and the resonance of the pans tends to overwhelm the equipment. Large bands can be recorded outdoors, but excess noise tends to overwhelm. It's a difficult matter in either case. This album is further proof of it. It starts out with a few mid-sized groups performing classical works, always one of the highlights of the steel band tradition. Unfortunately, the sound quality is so dense and mixed up (not to mention the ambient noise) that the beauty of the pieces can't be heard by the listener in any decent way.” (Greenberg 2013)

Very true, for the crescendo sections of the overture here are terribly oversaturated and clash disagreeably. Overall this is not a successful arrangement of Mendelssohn's work.

Ref: Greenberg, Adam 2013, Heart of Steel CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Steel Band of Trinidad – Heart of Steel CD, [CDUniverse](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Steelpan Music, (in English), [Wikipedia](#) & (in French) [Wikipedia](#)

Thomas, Jeffrey 1992, *Forty Years of Steel Band ' An Annotated Discography of Steel Band and Pan Recordings, 1951-1991*, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT, p. 170, [google.fr](#)

