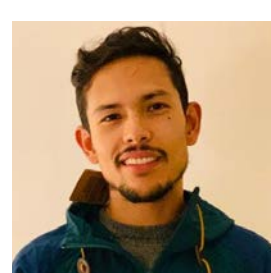
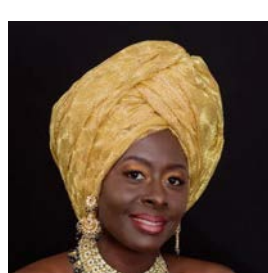
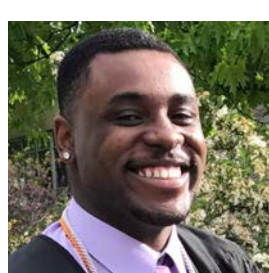
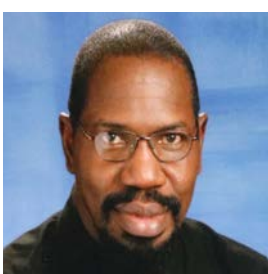
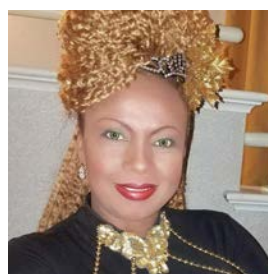
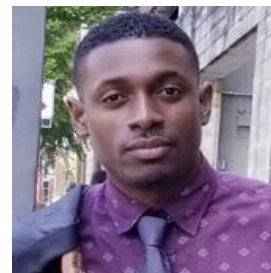


THE GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

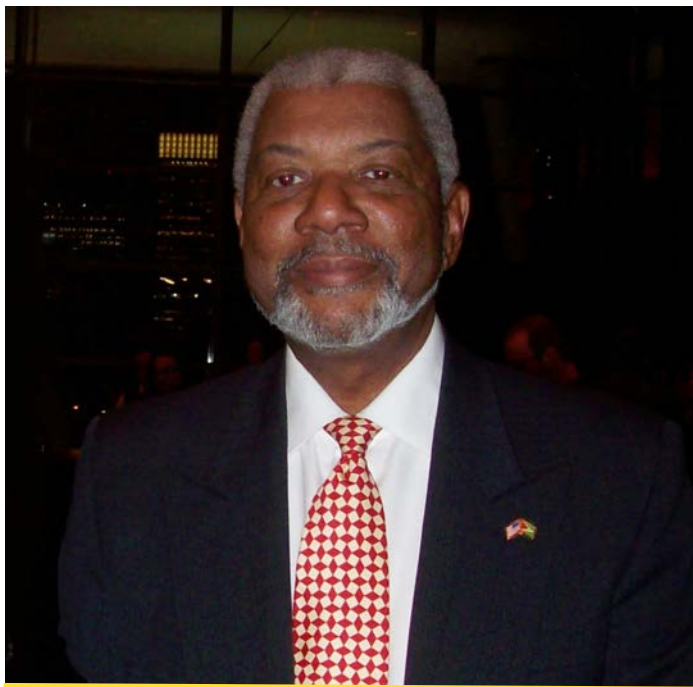
AWARDS CEREMONY 2019

MA'IUPE WORKING TOGETHER
WITH THE FESTIVAL ARTS



AUGUST 28, 2019 BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL, NY

Honoring Excellence In
Education, Music, Film,
Performing Arts,
Theatre & Information
Technology.



The Chairperson
Awards Committee.
Ronald H. Lammy

The 2019 GCA Award recognizes and honors a group of individuals representing a swath of Guyanese capabilities. Their excellence is demonstrated in various fields including education; performing arts; native culture; and computer-based information methodologies.

Visionary and creative characteristics are prominent across multiple generations. Admirable successes have been achieved by teenagers, millennials, and by persons of generations that could be parents, grandparents and great grandparents. We observe in the collective portfolios, initiatives and accomplishments that contribute unquestionably to the lives of those impacted by Awardees' work. Guyanese in the native land, and other folks in the Diaspora, are key beneficiaries.

The four categories of GCA Awards are identified below with the designations associated with the honorees. Each individual's picture and profile is present in the adjacent pages.

Lifetime Achievement Award - Musician, Composer, Journalist.

Exemplary Award - Pianist, Composer, Music Educator.

Exemplary Award - Filmmaker.

GCA Award - Cultural Enabler-Business Partner; Dancer, Choreographer; Dancer, Educator; eLearning Drumologist; Fashion Culturalist; Filmmaker Activists; Folk Music Educator; Media Culturalist; Music and Culture Educator; Musician, Composer, Actor; Steelpan Educator; Theatre Artist.

GCA Youth Award - Community Volunteer; Information Technologist; Steelpan musician; Theatre & Music Artist; Vocal Artist.

The Awards Committee is honored to have participated in the selection process.

We are most proud of our compatriots.



Ma'iupe = Working Together with the Festival Arts



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

Message from Ambassador Riyadh Insanally, CCH, on the occasion of the 2019 Annual Awards Ceremony of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York

It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings to the Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on the occasion of its 2019 Annual Awards Ceremony and Folk Festival, being celebrated under the theme, “Ma’iupe= ‘Working Together’ The Spirit of Solidarity within Guyana’s Festival Arts”, which I do believe is a fitting reflection of the work of the Association in keeping Guyanese in the Diaspora connected with our homeland and with each other.

I am pleased that the GCA’s cultural activities continue to focus on the promotion of our culture and cultural heritage, thereby providing a sense of belonging and personal identity. Furthermore, I note the GCA’s commitment to helping to forge an understanding of the histories of the different racial and ethnic communities that comprise Guyana, with the signature events of the 2019 season being used to support a multi-sensory exploration of some Guyanese traditions of solidarity and fusion within the Festival Arts. I fully endorse these efforts.

I commend the GCA on remaining faithful to its mission and I express my appreciation to the Board of Directors, members and the many volunteers, who provide unwavering support to the work of the GCA and, by extension, the wider Guyanese community. I also extend my sincere congratulations to this year’s Awardees and urge them to continue doing the things that make us all so proud of them and their achievements.

While I am, regrettably, unable to attend this year’s festivities, please be assured of my continued support and that of the Embassy of Guyana in all that the GCA is doing to contribute to the preservation of our rich heritage and my best wishes for a successful 2019 Annual Awards Ceremony and Folk Festival.

Riyad Insanally, CCH
Ambassador of Guyana to the USA

2490 TRACY PLACE, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20008
TEL: (202) 265-6900 • FAX: (202) 232-1297
Email: guyanaembassydc@verizon.net



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

August 28, 2019

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome everyone as the Guyana Cultural Association of New York hosts its annual Awards Ceremony.

Established in 2001, GCA unites Guyanese Americans in the five boroughs and sponsors cultural events that showcase the multi-ethnic traditions of their Caribbean nation, including the annual Guyana Folk Festival. Tonight, I am proud to join with Guyanese New Yorkers as they honor their rich heritage and recognize the contributions of individuals from this diverse and dynamic community. As you gather in fellowship at Brooklyn Borough Hall, I applaud the Association's members and supporters for their efforts to uplift our thriving Guyanese population and ensure their vibrant customs remain a vital part of the beautiful tapestry that defines our global city. Together, we are forging a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA - NEW YORK, USA

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION AWARDS CEREMONY 2019



The Consulate General of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in New York, on behalf of the Government and people of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, extends congratulations to the Guyana Cultural Association on hosting its annual Awards Ceremony for the Folk Festival Season.

This yearly gathering within the Diaspora unites us all through cultural events hosted under the theme *Ma'iupe = "Working Together"* *The Spirit of Solidarity within Guyana's Festival Arts.*

In February 2019, the great composer, the late Valerie Rodway, C.C.H., would have celebrated her 100th birthday and it is truly fitting that the Guyana Cultural Association honored her life and legacy by hosting a concert. Her work transcended the barriers of religion, social status and race and focused on Guyanese as a united people with a great love for country.

Tonight's award recipients have followed the path created by artists such as Valerie Rodway. You have chosen to showcase Guyana through your individual talents and expertise. This recognition is done in the spirit of solidarity. Our community stands ready to support all contributions to preserving and promoting Guyana's cultural heritage and identity.

Congratulations to the Guyana Cultural Association for successfully hosting yet another Folk Festival and Awards Ceremony. You have remained committed to nurturing a greater understanding and appreciation of our culture. Once again, congratulations to the honorees and thank you for creating new paths for the future generation.

Honorable Barbara Atherly
Consul General
The Cooperative Republic of Guyana in New York
August 2019

308 West 38th Street, New York, NY 10018
PH- 212-947-5110 □ FAX 646-915-0237
Email: cgny@guyanaconsulatenyork.org
Website www.guyanaconsulatenyork.org



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
YVETTE D. CLARKE
9TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK



August 28, 2019

Greetings,

I would like to extend my best wishes to the Guyanese community in honor of this annual Folk Festival season. May you take this time to represent, celebrate, and rejoice in Guyanese heritage.

I send my heartfelt congratulations to the numerous honorees for the GCA Award, Youth Award, Exemplary Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as to the winners of the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism. Your efforts and impressive contributions to the post-independence development of the country are greatly recognized.

I look forward to witnessing the continued accomplishments of the award recipients and the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, and I wish you great success at your gala.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvette D. Clarke".

*Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress*

CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEES
BANKS
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
LABOR
TRANSPORTATION

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

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718-649-7653
FAX: 718-649-7661
 EMAIL:
PERSAUD@NYSENATE.GOV

To The Guyana Cultural Association of New York,

Greetings. I am pleased to once again recognize the Guyana Cultural Association of New York for their dedication to assisting communities and compassion in closing societal gaps throughout New York and beyond. Moreover, I commend your association on your exceptional service to this Great State as you host another Guyana Cultural Association Awards and other Folk Festival events. Your ambition and determination to meet the needs of the public is truly a reflection of your outstanding leadership and unfaltering efforts, shaped by hope and love.

In addition, congratulations to the honorees. These upstanding citizens are a testament to what it means to be part of the community. Their support and kindness are inspirational and invaluable; please extend my gratitude to them for their commitment to helping the good people of New York.

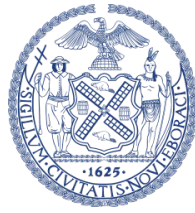
Lastly, it is my hope the Guyana Cultural Association continues the wonderful work they have been doing and maintains strong partnerships in this region and beyond. I sincerely wish that this celebration, like the previous one, exceeds your deservedly-high expectations, and that it is enjoyable for all. May your association carry on as a beacon, giving valued service each and every day to make the future brighter for humanity. Once more, congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxanne J. Persaud".

Roxanne J. Persaud
Senator – Senate District 19

August 28, 2019



**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**

August 28, 2019

To the Guyana Cultural Association,

On behalf of the City of New York, I would like to offer you my congratulations and well-wishes for today's awards ceremony and your Folk Festival. Your work over nearly two decades has been instrumental in uplifting and celebrating the culture of Guyana and its impact on the City of New York. Your work has been critical in sustaining the people of Guyanese descent and sharing the beauty of Guyanese culture with all New Yorkers.

I want to offer particular congratulations to this evening's honorees:

- Christian Mark Gibbs - Vocal Artist
- Makayla Harte - Community Volunteer
- Nalani Amara Mason - Theatre and Music Artist
- Tunisia Solomon - Steelpan Musician
- Samuel Williams - Information Technologist

As Public Advocate, I understand the immense value of promoting and preserving cultural heritage. I want to commend your mission, and add my voice in celebrating the theme of *Ma'iupe* and the spirit of solidarity. Congratulations on all of the work that you and tonight's honorees, have done toward achieving this goal. I wish you success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jumaane D. Williams
Public Advocate for the City of New York

GCA Awards Ceremony 2019



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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MATHIEU EUGENE

COUNCIL MEMBER, 40TH DISTRICT • BROOKLYN

CHAIR
CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMITTEES
YOUTH SERVICES
HEALTH
IMMIGRATION
SMALL BUSINESS
AGING

August 28th, 2019



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the Guyanese Cultural Association on the occasion of the Annual Guyana Cultural Awards Ceremony at Brooklyn Borough Hall. This wonderful organization has advocated for the empowerment and enrichment of our Guyanese brothers and sisters in the United States and Brooklyn for nearly 20 years.

Guyana has a rich heritage, and as a city, New York has derived so much from the hard work and determination of its Guyanese population. The theme of “Ma iupe” or “working together” is ever-present when we celebrate the accomplishments of the Guyanese community.

It has been my great honor to support the Guyanese Cultural Association and its incredible leadership team. Their advocacy to promote and instill Guyanese principles, values, and customs in our young people has been truly exemplary.

I want to commend this evening’s honorees, Christian Mark Gibbs, Makalya Hart, Nalani Amara Mason, Tunisia Solomon, Samuel Williams, each of whom is most deserving of the New York Youth Award.

Thank you so very much, and may God bless you.

Truly Yours,

Mathieu Eugene
Council Member
40th District, Brooklyn

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AMAISEL@council.nyc.gov



**THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

ALAN MAISEL

COUNCIL MEMBER, 46TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

COMMITTEE

CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR
FIRE AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
HOSPITALS
JUSTICE SYSTEM
VETERANS

August 20, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to extend warm greetings to everyone attending, participating in and supporting the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc., as they celebrate the 18th season of the Guyana Folk Festival.

The Guyana Cultural Association should be highly praised for their commitment and dedication in promoting and preserving Guyana's culture and heritage through: language, art, music, dance, food, and pageantry.

Again, it is my pleasure to send my congratulations and very best wishes for continued success.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Maisel".

ALAN MAISEL
Council Member – 46th District

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

FARAH N. LOUIS

45TH COUNCIL DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

August 28, 2019

Dr. Vibert Cambridge, A.A.
President
Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.
1368 E. 89th Street, Suite 2
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Dear Dr. Cambridge,

The City of New York – North, South, East, and West – is a municipality of immigrants with 3.1 million foreign-born residents. As Council Member of the 45th Council District, also known as Little Caribbean, I want to congratulate the *Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.* on its eighteenth anniversary.

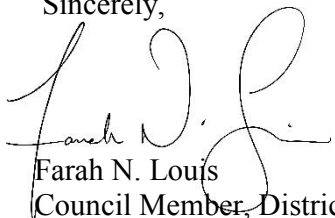
Guyana, one of the top ten immigrant populations, has an undeniable cultural and economic footprint throughout the five boroughs.

Under your leadership, the *Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.* has remained steadfast in its mission, “to preserve, promote, and propagate Guyanese creativity.” Thank you for your year-round efforts to celebrate diversity in unity through the arts, culture, and rich traditions!

There is no greater way to share the beauty of Guyana than through storytelling, vibrant costumes, song, and dance. This year’s theme, “Ma’upe = Working together with the Festival Arts,” is incredibly timely and a genuine reminder that the arts is a universal language. Let us always remember that we are “one people, one nation, and one destiny.”

Congratulations to this year’s honorees for your unwavering support of this organization’s extraordinary work in the 45th District, the Borough of Brooklyn, and the City of New York!

Sincerely,


Farah N. Louis
Council Member, District 45

Program

Musical Prelude - Medley of Valerie Rodway National Songs

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies Mr. Marcel Braithwaite - Claire Patterson-Monah

Procession of 2019 Awardees

National Anthems - United States and Guyana - Christian Mark Gibbs

Invocation- Rev Helen Rose John, New Life Center of Truth

Welcome to Folk Festival Season 2019 - Dr. Vibert Cambridge, A.A. President, GCA

Welcome to the Guyana Cultural Association Awards - Ronald H. Lammy, Chair Awards Committee

Welcome to Brooklyn - Hon. Eric L. Adams, Borough President of Brooklyn

Presentation of Proclamations to Exemplary and Lifetime Achievement

Greetings - Hon. Barbara Atherly Consulate General of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in New York.

Greetings - Awards reception sponsor Roger Milliner Chief Growth Officer Metro Plus Health Plan

Musical Selection - Steel Pan duet - "Keep Smiling" Composed by Tunisia Solomon
Performed by Tunisia and Ovril Solomon

About the Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism - Dr. Vibert Cambridge

Remarks by Gary Chin on behalf of the Chin family

Presentation of 2019 Godfrey Chin Prize for Heritage Journalism

Greetings from Elected Officials

Acknowledgement and Recognition of Sponsors and Supporters - Verna Walcott-White

Dance Selection - "Guyana" choreographed by Paul Charles-
Classique Dance Company NYC and Friends

Presentation of 2019 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Awards

Presentation of 2019 Guyana Cultural Association Awards

Presentation of 2019 GCA Lifetime Achievement Award - Dave Martins

Presentation of 2019 Guyana Cultural Association Exemplary Awards
Hugh Sam and Stefon Bristol

FINALE

Courtney Noel and the Kwe Kwe ensemble

Reception

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS 2019 AWARDS

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
 Metro Plus Health Plan-
 Roger Milliner, Victor Bell, Leroy Beresford
 JAP Marketing LLC (June Persaud)
 Bartenura, XM Rum
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 The Family of Godfrey Chin
 Ronald H. Lammy and Jonathan Locke
 Carlo Lachmansingh
 Tulsi Dyal Singh
 Marjorie Jones
 John Aaron
 Marcel Braithwaite
 Rev. Helen Rose John
 Christian Mark Gibbs
 Tunisia and Ovril Solomon

Steel Impressions Steelband
 Classique Dance Company NYC and friends
 Clive Prowell
 Courtney Noel and Kwe Kwe ensemble
 Oswald Bobb
 Kay Gray
 Inspire Media -Tangerine Clarke
 Distinguished Panel of Judges:
 Chin Heritage Prize for Journalism
 HE Ambassador Riyadh Insanally
 HE Ambassador Michael TenPow
 Hon Barbara Atherly Consul General
 Mayor Bill DeBlasio
 Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
 Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke
 Congressman Hakeem Jeffries
 State Senator Roxanne J Persaud
 State Senator Kevin Parker
 Assembly member Rodneyse Bichotte
 Council Member Mathieu Eugene
 Council Member Alan Maisel
 Council Member Farah Louis



A GENEROUS DONATION TO THE GCA AWARDS

Ronald Lammy and Jonathan Locke donate statuettes for five years of GCA Awards



The GCA Exemplary Awardee in 2007 was E.R. Braithwaite who received a wooden carved map of Guyana created by Jonathan Locke. It had distinctive features and left an indelible imprint on the Awards Committee Chair Ronald H. Lammy.

GCA 2007 Awards

In preparation for GCA's 15th Anniversary, a special commemorative symbol was being explored by the GCA Board. Ronald suggested a wooden carving of the GCA logo. The concept was endorsed and the stickman image which was created for GCA in 2002 by Claire Goring and Ashton Franklin was selected.

The Stickman Statuettes were presented in 2016 and 2017 to the GCA Awardees; budget constraints limited the 2018 presentations to the Lifetime Achievement And Exemplary recipients. This inconsistency prompted Ronald to inquire from Jonathan, in December 2018, what would it cost to acquire 30 statuettes for 2019 and 2020.

The ensuing conversation revealed that Jonathan had transitioned from his longstanding wood carving business to vocational teaching. They considered that GCA Awards had been developing the Stickman statuette as a brand image and it needed to be maintained in the foreseeable future. Ronald and Johnathan agreed on a joint donation of seventy five statuettes to cover the next five years starting 2019.

Jonathan would make them all by December 2019.

Dave Martins A.A Musician, Composer, Journalist, for more than 50 years he has consistently demonstrated the attributes we celebrate and recognize in the Guyana Cultural Association of NY. In 2002, Dave Martins was among the first Guyanese to receive GCA's Wordsworth McAndrew Award. His body of work, musical and journalistic, is substantial and growing from the "Honey-mooning Couple," "Not a Blade of Grass," to "Is We Own" is he own. His ongoing weekly column in the Stabroek News is aptly titled "SO IT GO" and serves to spotlight contemporary Guyanese life and creativity, encourage dialogue, and in the process stimulate national pride. By 1982, his body of work was already substantial and popular in Guyana, across the Caribbean, and among Guyanese in the diaspora. For this he was awarded Guyana's Golden Arrowhead of Achievement (A.A.). His opera, Rise Up, composed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of enslaved Africans in Guiana has a special place in Guyana's musical history

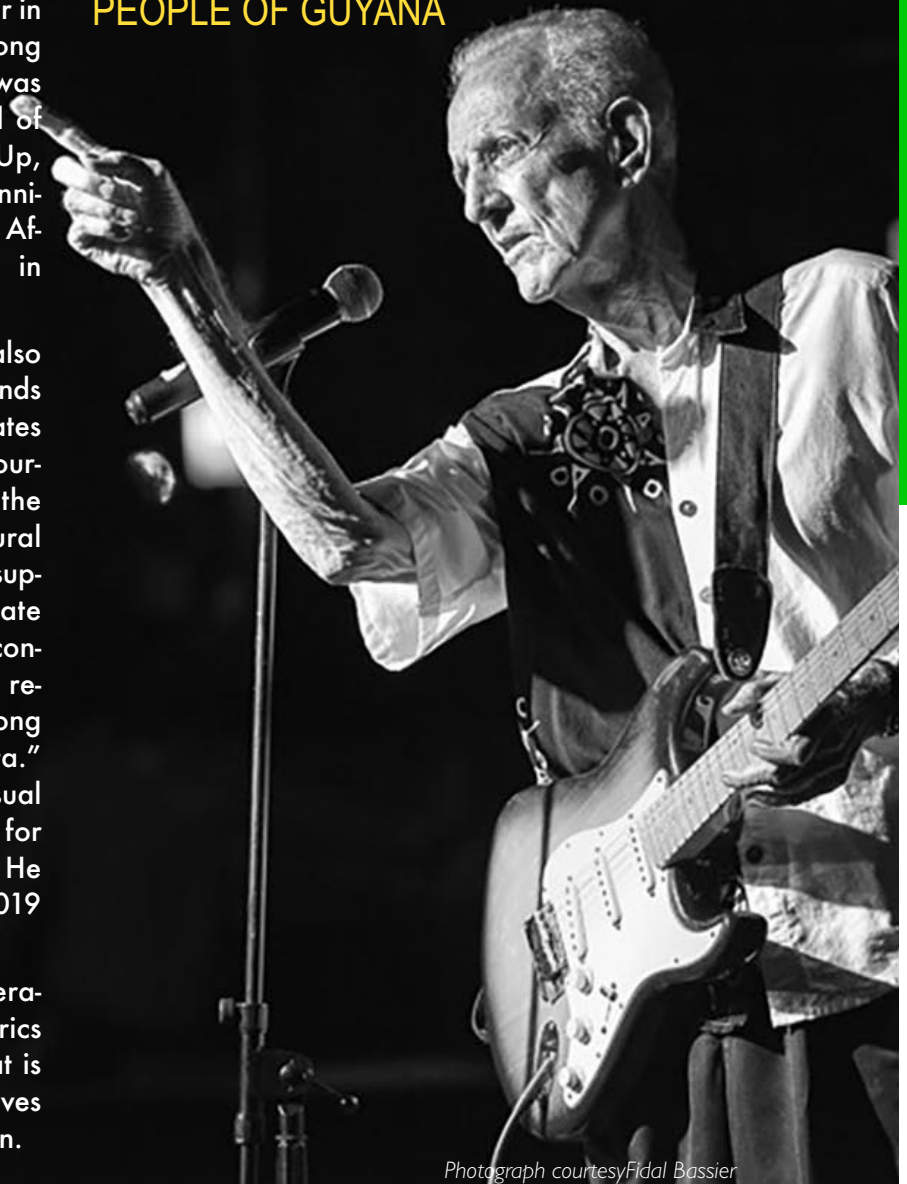
Leader of the Tradewinds band, he was also an influential manager in the Cayman Islands culture and tourism sector managing Pirates Week a jewel in Cayman's cultural and tourism calendar and was a member of the board of the Cayman National Cultural Foundation (CNCF) He been and active supporter of the campaign to rehabilitate Guyana's masquerade culture and has continued to record new music. In 2010, he released the 10-song CD Back Home, among the recordings is the plaintive "Ow Betta." He has been actively engaged in the visual media and has produced original music for a variety of film and television projects. He is the sage voice on the innovative 2019 video series—in Reel Guyana.

All of this has resulted in an inter-generational body of work and influence. His lyrics have helped Guyanese to visualize what is we own. His substantial body of work serves to illuminates a route to national cohesion.

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dave Martins A.A.

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, DAVE
MARTINS HAS CREATED MUSIC THAT
ELEVATED THE SOUL AND SPIRIT OF THE
PEOPLE OF GUYANA



Photograph courtesy Fidal Bassier

Hugh Sam Pianist, Composer, Music Educator, is a model musician whose reputation continues to wax with the foundational substance of his career. The sixty plus years of contributions to, and demonstration of, Guyanese creativity outshine other popular artistry.

Hugh Sam's outstanding skills and savoir-faire were developed from childhood. He excelled in his youth under the tutelage of icons of that time, and later was ahead of his contemporaries. He started concert performances in 1948. At 18 years, Hugh wrote a set of four pieces called "Little Suite".

His superior musical talents are displayed in multi-genre arrangements and compositions for diverse musical instruments. Most prominent is the piano

classical music norms. An early influencer in another genre was Bertie Taitt. Mr Taitt was inspiring with his "effortless switching" from classical music to popular tunes and jazz.

His musical activities included being pianist for Helen Taitt's ballet school; performing on the radio program "Piano Personalities"; and as a musical director for the Theatre Guild of Guyana production of the famous Broadway show, "The Fantasticks"(1965). He was also arranger for two steel bands: "The Invaders" and "Symphonia", and served as the musical director for the Guyanese musicians at Expo 67. Mr Sam recorded a jazz album, "A Saxful of Harry" with Guyanese iconic saxophonist, Harry Whittaker. It is a standard.

**GUYANA
CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION
EXEMPLARY
AWARD**

**Hugh
Sam**



**AN
OUTSTANDING
MUSICIAN
AND MUSIC
EDUCATOR**

along with the synthesizer. Decades of creativity defined new paths and built bridges in Guyanese and Caribbean folk songs through late 20th century electronic modes.

Mr Sam has created definitive work. His "Trinidad Rhapsody (2004)" was also originally written for piano and orchestra. Hugh rearranged it for piano and the steelpan orchestra. It was performed in Trinidad and Tobago by Guyanese Ray Luck and the University of the West Indies Festival Steel Ensemble.

While he extolls folk music, he is not restrained by his strong indigenous feelings and formal training in

Hugh Sam has cross-genre music expertise and has been a music teacher in New York City. His interest in fostering music literacy and using creative techniques was evident in 2015. He collaborated with Guyanese colleagues and provided insight that guided the establishment of the first full music education program through the steelpan using electronic methodologies. It is an example of strongly fostering music literacy for youth.

His current Diaspora engagements confirm a brilliant and expansive career with a sterling reputation of high quality and distinction.

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
EXEMPLARY AWARD

Stefon Bristol

Stefon Bristol is an exemplar to Guyanese youth. He has used his creativity and the platform of his film to showcase Guyanese talent. He is the award-winning filmmaker and director of "See you Yesterday."

Stefon Bristol, Brooklyn-born, Long Island-bred is writing his own success story as a fresh face with a creative voice in the film world. Of Guyanese parentage, his first feature film 'See you Yesterday', was released on Netflix in 2019.

As a recent alumnus of NYU's Graduate Film Program, Stefon helmed many films including the Cine Golden Eagle Award winner 'The Bodega'.

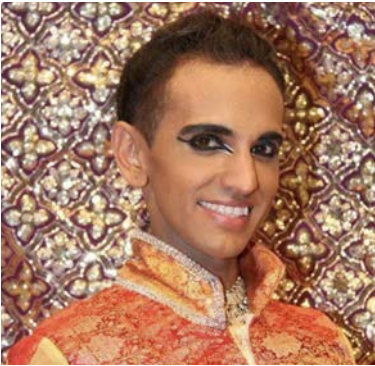
Spike Lee, a longtime mentor awarded Stefon the 2016 Spike Lee Production Grant for his thesis short film 'See You Yesterday' that forms the basis for this feature film. He has also co-directed the upcoming television series 'Payroll' with Dennis Williams and directed Proof-of-Concept for Chad Sander's 'The Archer Connection', the upcoming BET Television Series.

As a youth growing up in Coney Island NY, Stefon remembers not seeing many West Indian people portrayed in the media. He thought it was a real disservice to New York to not show Caribbean people in movies, so he decided to take matters into his own hands and specifically filled the roles of grandparents in the movie with West Indian actors.

'See You Yesterday' was entered in Festivals, earning accolades as a finalist of the HBO Short Film Competition (American Black Film Festival) and winning the Best of the Festival (Hip Hop Film Festival) and HBO Short Film Competition (Martha's Vineyard) African American Film Festival.



A CELEBRATION OF THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH STRONG CREATIVE GIFTS AND AS CULTURAL ENABLERS IN THE GUYANESE SOCIETY



"International Dancer Zaman"
MOHAMED A. AMIN
Dancer, Educator

Mohamed A. Amin is an international dancer, energetic producer, performer, and teacher.

His intense passion for dance and the performing arts continues to receive public acclaim within the Caribbean and the LGBT Community which he represents.

A pioneer in his multi-ethnic craft, Zaman is a trained Kathak, Orissi, Bollywood, Bhangra and Chutney dancer and showcases his talent throughout the Tri-State area - New York, New Jersey and Connecticut - to raise funds for cancer research, the Children's Tumor Foundation, as well as many other organizations that seek to bring relief to human suffering.

Zaman exemplifies the true spirit of community, philanthropy, cultural identity and togetherness.



ANDREA BRYAN GARNER
Media culturalist

Andrea Bryan Garner strives to promote Guyanese culture in everything she does. A television producer by profession, Andrea's love for the arts has allowed her to explore various avenues of expression: mainly through Guyanese cuisine, art, craft, fashion and multimedia. Andrea uses her social media platform to promote Guyanese Arts and Culture. She is also a founding member and volunteer Coordinator of the award-winning multimedia NGO Youth Media Guyana. It is her hope that Guyanese Culture will be documented through the media as a way of preserving and fostering awareness of Guyana's culture. Despite the many challenges Andrea had to overcome, she remains an extremely positive and optimistic person.

Andrea firmly believes that for Guyana to progress culturally, we must first appreciate what it means to be Guyanese.



PAUL CHARLES
Dancer, Choreographer

Paul Anthony Charles is no stranger to the stage, for over 10 years he's worked as a dancer and model, earning the position of senior company member at both the Classique Dance Company and the Free Souls Dance Theatre Company.

Paul is no stranger to the performing arts. He is known as the Dare of Dance. He is currently the talent coach for the Miss Guyana world Organization and the Artistic Director of the Imperial House Company.

Paul also plans on owning his own dance centre, the PAC Performing Arts Centre. Where he can muster the minds and build out talent level in Guyana, having the ability to work with children gives him a sense of pride and motivation to continue making a difference in the lives of youth and make a positive change in their lives, he is not just a dance teacher but he is a positive role model.



SIMEON DOWDING

(aka Simone Dowding)
Theatre Artist

Simeon Dowding, a trained Visual Artist, TV Producer and award-winning Radio Actress, has been involved in the field of Performing Arts for over three decades. She promotes the spirit of community togetherness through her roles in television, radio and stage productions.

In her quest for knowledge-sharing, Simone established the award-winning Purple Arts Productions, a company that works with youths between the ages of eight and sixteen, and hosts drama workshops during the months of July and August. Her television production, Young Professionals of Guyana is intended to motivate and inspire by showcasing the achievements of outstanding young Guyanese.

Simeon Dowding, a true pioneer in initiating and advancing community effort.



MILDRED LOWE

Music and Culture Educator

Mildred Lowe has outstanding achievements with substantive impact in Guyana,

her imprint is exemplary in many dimensions. Her extraordinary career spanned two critical sectors in asserting Guyanese identity: education, arts and culture. She held many positions from a teenage school teacher to Chairman of the Department of Culture. Ms. Lowe's distinctive talents-initiated contributions to several segments that nurtured Guyanese creativity. An acknowledgement of her sterling dedication as a music and culture educator was selection for the Golden Arrow of Achievement Award in 1996. In the Diaspora she has shown a pioneering spirit with the introduction of electronic teaching methods.

Ms Lowe's academic excellence permitted her to start her work life at age 16. Her cultural awareness and intellectual acuity earned her a music education scholarship. She graduated in three years with a BA, cum laude, in music at the University of Caldwell. In 2001. Ms Lowe earned a double degree in Education and Technology from New York Institute of Technology.



DARREN McALMONT

Theatre Artist

At 26 years old, Darren McAlmont has excelled in theatre arts, both in Guyana and Antigua. From a young age, Darren has demonstrated immense passion for Guyanese Arts and Culture and has done incredible work to successfully provide a platform for Guyanese based Artists to perform beyond Guyana. While working with the Ministry of Culture and The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Darren was instrumental in bringing a cast and crew from Guyana to perform Fitzroy Tyrell's play, "Somebody Gon' Horn Yuh." In 2012, Darren founded his own production company, "Bean Entertainment," where he writes, and produces his own plays. Darren currently attends York University in Toronto where he is pursuing a double major. He is on the Dean's circle of top student scholars and is poised to graduate Suma Cum Laude.



Tassa Drums





ANDREA MENTORE

Theatre Artist

Andrea Mentore has been contributing to the Music and Cultural Life in Guyana for over thirty years. Academically she holds a B.Soc. in Credit Management from the University of Guyana and piano Certificates from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), having studied with Mrs. Janet Hunte M.S.

In Music she is a teacher at the Dewar's Music School and the Guyana Education Trust College. Andrea is the Conductor of The Woodside Choirs M.S. (2012 - Present) Conductor/Accompanist to the National Choir (2015 - Present)

Under the heading of Folk Research and Preservation, she is a member of the Masquerade Fraternity.

She also is one of the founders of Korokwa Folk Group and served as its Musical Director from 1988 - 2015. In 2015 she founded and remains the Director of Maskajazz a group devoted to fusing Guyanese musical genres with Jazz.



Ma'iupe =



Working Together with the Festival Arts



COURTNEY NOEL

Musician, Composer, Actor

Courtney Andrew Noel is an exceptionally talented and highly skilled artiste, who uses his career as a multi-genre composer, singer and actor to promote Guyana's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

A prolific composer and singer, Courtney's composition I LOVE MY GOLDEN ARROWHEAD which speaks to his love of country, has the distinction of winning the Road March category for two successive years.

In May of 2018, Courtney fulfilled his dream of stepping in front of the camera. He was chosen to play the role of Kingsley in the popularly acclaimed SEE YOU YESTERDAY, a Spike Lee produced film written and directed by Guyanese Stefon Bristol.

Courtney also tapped his modern language skills to chart his career path within the United Nations Organization, New York. Using this position and cognizant of his roots, he returned to Guyana under the aegis of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to help mold the minds and provide counsel to the youth about the entertainment industry.

Courtney Andrew Noel, a true emissary of Guyanese Cultural heritage and Festival Arts.



CHELSEA and EMANN ODUFU

Filmmakers, Activists

CHELSEA and EMANN ODUFU are award-winning film makers who fuse their passion for the arts, culture social justice and Afro-futurism to regenerate positive empowering images of underrepresented groups on screen. Their award-winning film 'Ori Inu In Search of Self' has screened around the world and at institutions such as Harvard and Yale, where they led discussions and conducted workshops. Their film work has been featured in the New York Times, Forbes Magazine, and Huffington Post and on NBC News.

Chelsea has worked for Spike Lee on a few of his film projects and with music artists like Chance the Rapper and Meek Mills, while Emann's writings on film Afro-futurism, have been published by Atlanta Black Star.

Chelsea and Emann are currently in post-production for their new Afro-futuristic TV pilot, 'Black Lady Goddess'.



MONICA SANCHEZ Ph.D.
Theatre Artist

Dr. Monica Sanchez is an international cultural ambassador. Known for the many “hats” she wears. Dr. Sanchez is a motivational speaker, Executive Director of UNESCO, Institute for Fashion Education, Producer of the Danny Glover Power of Dreams Award just to cite a few. Dr. Sanchez came from humble beginnings. She is an avid supporter of education and she continuously strives for excellence and self-improvement. Dr. Sanchez is a retired New York State Corrections Officer. She lives in New York and sits on many boards and committees. However, her passion is young people especially young women and she pursues this passion relentlessly through her many programs and pageants that empower and promote young people; especially young women. Dr. Sanchez is a firm believer of bringing people together and promoting cultural understanding through education. Dr. Sanchez credits her strength and determination to her grandmother who from an early age instilled in her good morals and Faith in God.



OVRIL SOLOMON
Steelman Educator

Ovril (OV.) Solomon band leader, teacher, musician and steelpan tuner is the co-founder of Steel Impressions Steelband. O.V. Solomon began his musical career in Guyana, as part of the Atlantic Symphony Steel Orchestra over 40 years ago when his brother Phil was the band leader.

He attended the University of Pittsburgh where he studied electrical engineering and business. During this time he performed with the groups • Modern Anxiety • Crystal City (Gospel) • RPM (Top 40s) • Dr. Quasi and the Islanders • Steel Impressions O.V. Solomon recorded with the new-wave group Modern Anxiety on an album called “Made in Pittsburgh” (vol 3).

He has also taught his three children how to play steel pan at an early age in order to pass down this rich cultural legacy. Each one of his children is making a name for themselves in the music industry with this unique and melodic instrument.



JAMAIN VICTOR
Dancer, Choreographer

JAMAIN VICTOR is a Dancer, Choreographer and Model, whose most formal training started with Classique Dance Company of Guyana in 2009. At the age of 19 he was awarded a scholarship to one of Guyana’s leading dance companies where he trained in various dance styles such as Afro Caribbean, African, Indian/Bollywood/Kathak, Pop and Contemporary. He was afforded the opportunity to tour extensively throughout the Caribbean, performing for the most prestigious CARIFESTA cultural event.

Jamain’s move to New York opened many doors for his continued pursuit as a dance professional. He enrolled in programs at the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Something Positive, PRDC and Mark Morris Dance Studio. He is credited with performances in several significant dance events such as Black Nativity, Dance Africa, Brooklyn Celebrates, Kwanzaa Celebration, New York Fashion Week and many music videos. He is currently a featured member of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre under the Directorship of Abdul Salaam and teaches at several Institutions in





KENTON WYATT
Learning Drumologist

Kenton Wyatt has an outstanding career as a drumologist, multi-instrument musician, and eLearning music educator. He has served as a cultural motivator and storyteller. Mr Wyatt contributes profound knowledge and innovative expertise in the performing and visual arts which position him as a standard-bearer. He propagates Guyanese creativity in academic institutions and in community entities in Guyana, Suriname, the Caribbean, and North America. He was the instructor of drumology at the University of Guyana in the 1970s and 1980s. His highly impressive professional vocation as a school teacher and a steelpan musician is complemented by astute social entrepreneurship. Mr Wyatt established a definitive formal music teaching model using contemporary electronic mechanisms. At the forefront are the steelpan and Guyanese folksongs.

Mr Wyatt is also the Founder and CEO of Kendrum Music Academy & Recording Studio, Inc., Toronto, Canada. He teaches the steelpan and other instruments to Caribbean and non-Caribbean students.



JAP MARKETING LLC
(June Persaud)
Cultural Enabler, Business Partner

JAP MARKETING LLC, through its owner and CEO, June Persaud, over the years has adapted its dynamic concept of building business, integrated marketing and brand development to leveraging a collaborative business partnership with the Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc., especially its Awards Ceremony. That relationship, through JAP's marketing taste-testing technique of the XM and Bartenura brands, has not only put the brands on the competitive edge, but continues to bring together the Guyanese community and those who wish to learn about Guyanese culture under one roof in spirited cultural celebrations and discourse.

JAP MARKETING LLC through its CEO June Persaud, enabling the promotion of Guyana's cultural heritage as an integral component of the mosaic of the United States of America.

Tadjah ...
a Guyanese
Festival Art

