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For Immediate Release

THE MIGHTY SPARROW, TABOU COMBO AND FREDDIE MC GREGOR PAY TRIBUTE TO HAITI AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN SUNSHINE AWARDS

Teaneck, New Jersey, USA, Sept 19th 2003....The SUNSHINE Awards™ organization today issued the following statement:

By Kanchan Gilfillian

On Saturday, September 27, the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary, fifteen years of giving recognition to the creators, performers and producers of Caribbean art forms. It promises to be a very special night, not only because this year's Awards program marks a significant milestone in the organization's history, but also because of the dedication of this year's show to the celebration of the bicentennial of the Haitian Revolution. The King of Calypso himself, the Mighty Sparrow, Haiti's most popular band, Tabou Combo, Jamaica's reggae superstar, Freddie McGregor, and Barbados' Arturo Tappin, along with Trinidad and Tobago's panist, Dane Gulston, will all be a part of this year's Awards. They and all nominees will be there to pay tribute to those African ancestors whose courage and fortitude gave them victory against the most powerful army of Napoleon.

The Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards, over the past fifteen years, have honored many of the Caribbean's talented and creative artistes, including the Mighty Sparrow, who was inducted into the SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame in 1990 and given the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. His sentiment regarding the recognition from the SUNSHINE Awards has been echoed over the years by many, "It is very special to be honored by your peers, the people who follow your career closely. These are people who really care about you and your music. Some awards are given as a matter of course, but you know that this one is given from the heart." Tabou Combo, perhaps Haiti's most well known band, and the very popular and successful reggae star, Freddie McGregor of Jamaica are both being nominated for special Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards.

When the Awards program was first established in 1989, it celebrated calypso and steelband music. Today, the chairman and founder of the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards, Gil Figaro, Sr. along with the Co-Founder of the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame, Dr. Hollis Chalkdust Liverpool, are proud of the inclusive nature of the program, "When you look at the Caribbean, you see so much diversity - language, art and the mix of different races, each with their own cultural heritage. This wonderful mélange gives us a rich and vibrant cultural experience. The Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards is firmly committed to preserving this rich

cultural diversity for the education and enjoyment of future generations. Art forms from across the region, English, French, Spanish, Dutch and Creole are all celebrated as important facets of our collective cultural heritage." Calypsonian, Swallow of Antigua, goes even further. "... The SUNSHINE Awards brings out the best from all the islands. If it weren't for the SUNSHINE Awards, some calypsonians would not be known today. It has been the starting block that has propelled many musicians into the professional world of calypso."

With the evolution of the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards, new programs were created, such as the Student Recognition Program, which celebrates the academic achievement of Caribbean students by bringing the top performing male and female students from a selected island to New York to be part of the Awards program. The students are also taken on cultural and education tours in New York. This year, students from Haiti will be honored as part of the Awards dedication to the celebration of the bicentennial of the Haiti revolution.

The 15th Annual Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards Nominees are:

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- Lord Kitchener Caribbean SUNSHINE Award
 - Trinidad & Tobago 2003 Panorama Champions - Exodus
 - Special Honorees
 - Arturo Tappin - Music (Barbados)
 - Freddie McGregor - Music (Jamaica)
 - Frantz Voltaire - Movie Producer (Haiti)
 - Jean Julien - Historian (Haiti)
 - Paul Keens-Douglas - Drama / Comedy (Trinidad & Tobago)
 - Tabou Combo - Music (Haiti)
 - Friend of the Arts
 - Kenneth Blake (St. Thomas, USVI)
 - Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame
 - Calypso Music
 - Clytus Ali (Mighty Dougl'a) - Calypso Music
 - Emmanuel Pierre (Caruso) - Calypso Music
 - Kenrick Randolph Patrick (Lord Creator) - Calypso Music
 - Steelband Music
 - Curtis Anthony Pierre - Steelband Music
 - Vernon Berdie Mannette - Steelband Music
 - Female Vocalist of the Year
 - Allison Hinds Song / Wine Back
 - Denyse Plummer Song / Cathersis
 - Fay-Ann Lyons Song / My Time Now
 - Singing Althea Song / Exposed
 - Sanelle Dempster Song / Chances
 - Male Vocalist of the Year
 - Crazy Song / Shoes
 - Kevin Lyttle Song / Turn Me On
 - Red Plastic Bag Song / In Meh Pants
 - Rupee Song / Blame It On The Music
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- Scrunter Song / Jumbie
- Best Social Commentary of the Year
 - Crazy Song / Shoes
 - De Fosto Song / Are We The Mecca For True
 - Man-Child Song / Non For Now Mentality
 - Singing Althea Song / Exposed
- Best Party Calypso of the Year
 - 3 Canal / Andre Tanker Song / Ben Lion
 - De Fosto Song / Firestorm
 - Fay-Ann Lyons Song / My Time Now
 - Rupee Song / Blame It On The Music
 - Scrunter Song / Jumbie
- Best Recording by Group or Dance band
 - Burning Flames Song / School Call Een
 - Krosfyah Song / Action
 - Square One Song / Don't Stop The Carnival
 - Traffic Song / Take Yur Time
- Best Chutney-Soca Recording
 - Preacher Song / My Dulahin
 - Rikki Jai Song / Scopian
 - Heeralal Song / Leh We Go To Mayaro

The Fifteenth Annual SUNSHINE Awards is sponsored in part by Propel Fitness Water by the makers of Gatorade, Hennessy, Keyspan, BWIA, Air Jamaica, The New York Carib News, Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation, Calypsocity, Travel Span Vacations and WWRL 1600 Radio.