

THE CARIBBEAN SUNSHINE AWARDS

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Jamaica's Ernest Ranglin Nominated for 2005 Caribbean Sunshine Award

Teaneck, New Jersey ----- The Caribbean Sunshine Awards organization announced today that Jamaica's world renowned guitarist will receive the 2005 Caribbean Sunshine Award on October 29 in New York City for his many years of contribution to Caribbean music.

Ernest Ranglin who played at his first paid gig at sixteen is a man whose career spans the postwar development of Jamaican popular music. When Ranglin started his professional career there were only a few bands in Jamaica following such US counterparts as Duke Ellington, Woody Herman and Count Basie. By nineteen, he was touring the Caribbean and admiring the great sounds of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.

In 1958, while leading his own band at the Half Moon Hotel in Jamaica, he met Chris Blackwell. He recorded his first album in 1960 titled "Guitar in Ernie" with Island Records. He recorded another album "Wranglin" in 1963. By this time, Ernest was in big demand throughout the Caribbean, Europe and the United States.

Over the years, Ernest has performed with music legends such as saxophonist, Bertie King, Cuban saxophonist, Roland Alphonso, and George Benson. He was also the arranger on the worldwide hit "My Boy Lollipop" performed by Millie Small, which sold over eight million copies. He also contributed to hits like "It Hurts to Be Alone" for the Wailers, and "Rivers of Babylon" for the Melodians. In fact, Ernest Ranglin has performed all forms of music, including ska, rock-steady, reggae, jazz, and calypso. He is also featured on over 100 albums. His latest albums include, "Gotcha," "Modern Answers to Old Problems," "Rocksteady," and "Surfin."

Ernest Ranglin was awarded the “Jamaican Order of Distinction” in 1973 and the “Musgrave Medal” in 1992. In 2004, he received a “Doctors of Letters” from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and the “Commander of the Order of Distinction” from the Jamaican Government.

Contacted by phone from his home in Jamaica Ernest said, *“I feel great and I am very pleased by this honor from the Caribbean Sunshine Awards. I have been following the Caribbean Sunshine Awards for sometime now and the organization has recognized and paid tribute to some great legends and stalwarts. I am honored to be among those who have received such great tributes for their work and I look forward to being at the gala event to accept it in person.”*

The Calypso King of the World, The Mighty Sparrow said *“In keeping with the depth at which the Caribbean Sunshine Awards seeks to identify and recognize the musical greats, it is not surprising that Ernest Ranglin is nominated this year for the Caribbean Sunshine Awards. Ernie is a great and talented musician. He plays that guitar with such ease and comfort. He is a legend and very deserving of the 2005 Caribbean Sunshine Award.”*

The Caribbean Sunshine Awards was founded in 1989 to pay tribute to the creators, producers and performers of Caribbean art, dance, and music. This year the program will be staged on Saturday, October 29, at the Sheraton New York Hotel, 811 Seventh Avenue in New York City. Reservations for tickets can be made by calling **201-836-0799**, by fax **201-836-4440** or at sunshineawards.com.

The Seventeenth Annual Caribbean Sunshine Awards is sponsored in part by Moet Hennessey, Continental Airlines, Barbados Tourism Authority, BWIA, Travel Span Vacations and New York Carib News.

