

# ***THE SUNSHINE AWARDS***

*P.O. Box 3717, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 \* (201) 836-0799 \* Fax (201) 836-4440*

## ***News Release***

Contact: ***Kanchan Paser***  
646-486-6172

***Holly Cooper***  
917-597-3048

## ***For Immediate Release***

# ***Nelson, Duke, Beddoe, Duncan Nominated for SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame***

~~~~~

New Jersey, USA, October 12, 2006 ----- Today, the Sunshine Awards organization and Cherry Lane Music Publishing Co., Inc. announced the nominees for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame. In making the announcement, the co-founder of the Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame, **Dr. Hollis Chalkdust Liverpool** said, *“This year, the Committee with responsibility for the “Hall of fame” is proud to present four of our outstanding artistes for initiation into its hallowed walls. The four artists represent years of performances, experiences and our social history, and they depict the development not only of the arts, but that of Caribbean people. Through their efforts, the Caribbean as a region has grown and developed and posited our music on the world stage, where today it enjoys a status that is second to none. The Sunshine Awards is not only proud of them as fine artists in their own rights, but presents them as models and exemplars of the finest in men and women. In the field of calypso we salute Kelvin Pope and Lord Nelson and in the realm of steelband Orville Duncan and Andrew Beddoe.”*

**Kelvin Pope (the Mighty Duke)** goes back to the 1960s in calypso when singers from Trinidad’s southland held their own and rivaled their northern counterparts in good calypso composition to the extent that most of the famous singers of the era were southerners. His experience with the best of the southland provided him with the tools to become one of the best in the calypso business. He won the Calypso Monarch title for four consecutive years—the only calypsonian to have done so - 1968 to 1971. He is known for his wit, his ability to create beautiful harmonies and tunes even though he does not play an instrument, and above all, for his skill in making calypsos of every genre. Where most calypsonians specialize in one or two types of calypso songs, the Mighty Duke is a master of all.

**Robert Nelson (Lord Nelson)** is known in calypso circles worldwide as “the Grand Daddy of Calypso.” His performances underscore the art in calypso that demonstrates how to communicate messages to an audience, how and when to dance, how and when to be fast or slow, how to use the local colloquialisms, and how to dress on stage. On stage, Nelson is the consummate calypsonian, for he has the ability to lift a rather cold audience to bubbling heights where they sing, dance, and sway to his infectious rhythms. Though born in Tobago, Nelson was drawn to the art form in New York, where he lived in the 1960s and where he was privileged to be in the company of the senior bards of calypso. He has since become a bard himself.

**Andrew Beddoe** grew up in Trinidad and Tobago at a time when calypso and steelband were looked upon as degrading arts. Moreover, drumming was not even considered an art; but rather a pestilence to which young men who passed their time in idle gossip and licentious wastefulness were often drawn. Yet Andrew persisted with his drums, carrying on the traditions of his forefathers that had given birth to the steelband. It was his drumming that laid the basis for the renaissance of not only the steelband and today’s “engine rooms,” but also for the numerous drum-musicians, Baptist and Orisha singers, and dancers in Trinidad and Tobago and throughout the Caribbean. He is indeed a drummer extraordinaire.

While many people can easily associate the steelband with Trinidad, not many are familiar with the history of this art form and the island of Tobago. The birth of the steelband in Tobago owes a lot to pioneer steelbands men like Hugh ‘Boboy’ Borde of Tripoli Steelband and his brother, **Orville Duncan**. As a young man, Duncan decided to take up the steelband despite the shameful slander and negative reactions from his elders. He fell in love with the artistry and musicality of this art form, and persisted in honing his own skills, thereby laying the fundamentals of the steelband movement in Tobago. Today’s outstanding steelbands and pannists, who hail from the island of Tobago, owe a lot to the wisdom and the vision of Orville Duncan. He took up the baton, perfected his skill, and passed it on to the youth of today.

The Eighteenth Annual Sunshine Awards will be held on Sunday, October 29, at the Sheraton New York Hotel in New York City. A number of world-renowned artists, including the Calypso King of the World, the Mighty Sparrow, the Jamaica National Dance Theatre Company, the Barbados Dance Theatre, and the Signal Hill Alumni Choir of Trinidad and Tobago will be performing.

This year’s program is sponsored in part by Hennessy, Carib Beer, New York Carib News, Travel Span Vacations, and RumJungle. Tickets for the black-tie event can be purchased by calling **201-836-0799, 718-528-6424** or by fax **201-836-4440**. Reservations can also be made by sending an email to [tickets@sunshineawards.com](mailto:tickets@sunshineawards.com).