

40TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21ST
2017

TORONTO CENTRE
FOR THE ARTS



Reflections
... *A walk down*
memory lane

An evening celebrating the journey of The Heritage Singers over the years.

Since 1977

HeritageSingersCanada.com

Message from the Founder/Musical Director,
Grace Carter-Henry Lyons
(Daughter of the late Rev. Dr. J. J. Carter-Henry)

welcome

Heritage Singers began in 1977 when a group of friends who kept meeting periodically to sing, after our first Christmas Eve get-together in 1976, was asked to perform at Harbourfront. Before that we were meeting just to have fun and sing songs to get rid of the winter blues. As friends living in a new country we felt the need to reflect on our cultural background through music and song. Each week, as we met, it was like a home-coming and putting aside the daily routine. Some members described it as a form of therapy.

It was very apparent that while there were a number of organizations dedicated to perpetuating Caribbean Culture throughout the community there was still a need for our form of classic folk music expression. As a former member of The Jamaica Folk Singers under the leadership of the departed Mrs. Olive Lewin, I had the musical skills and the gift of harmonizing to try and maintain the standards

she had imparted. Over the years we have consistently worked hard towards the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in performance that includes movement, which is not easy to achieve in producing the thematic cohesion as a choir.

I sincerely thank the current group of members, who are very dedicated individuals. The dedication and effort of the past members also have not gone unnoticed, because without their hard work and notable commitment there would be very little to speak of in terms of the Heritage Singers today. I especially appreciate the long-standing record of a present founding member, Valerie Laylor.

However, there are other current members who have been with the group over 10 and 20 years and are also acknowledged in the program.

I have thoroughly enjoyed researching and choosing the numerous songs found in our repertoire through the years, as well as arranging many harmonies. I have not done that alone, however, as members have made contributions of music as well. A special "thank you" to Grub Cooper who wrote the words and the music for our Opening and Closing songs -- "Country wedding Theme song" and "All is well" -- in the 2009 production, "Olde Tyme Country Wedding".

I thank God for giving me the energy and enabling me to successfully mix my professional career -- now a member of the Re/Max Hall of Fame -- with the role as Founder and Musical Director of the group. I believe that one must have a passion to follow, and my passion is indisputably Folk Music. Above all, I have been truly blessed by God with two wonderful children -- Warren Lyon and Lee-Anne Lyon-Bartley -- and a grand-child, Cameron Bartley, as well as loving friends and family.

I have been asked what has kept me going so humbly along for 40 years; and when I reflect I think it is seeing so many great friendships forged in the group, including at least six couples who have met and eventually got married. Sometimes I ask myself why do I continue, and I have come to accept what I have been told: that I am doing a Social Ministry that has been bestowed on me.

The Heritage Singers thank you for your continued support and we promise to bring a touch of nostalgia and fun to your evening with us.





JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSION
Ottawa, ON

Message from Her Excellency Mrs. Janice Miller
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada

Heritage Singers 40th Anniversary Production – “A Reflections- A Walk Down
Memory Lane”

It is with a great sense of pride that I congratulate the Heritage Singers on the occasion of this 40th Anniversary Production entitled “Reflections - A Walk Down Memory Lane”.

This performance coincides with the 55th Anniversary of Independence of Jamaica and the 150th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and symbolises the convergence of the diversity and the cultural creativity of the two nations.

The Heritage Singers continue to be iconic cultural ambassadors in preserving the Jamaican culture, through its wide repertoire of musical productions and stellar performances both locally and internationally. This 40th Anniversary Production will serve to highlight the influence of Jamaica’s folk music and other musical genres, underscoring the deep significance of tradition and cultural identity demonstrated through the various art forms, of which Jamaica is renowned.

I also offer commendations to the Heritage Singers for their charitable activities in support of improving the lives of the less fortunate and the most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Jamaican High Commission, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the group as you continue to inspire and to be stalwart purveyors of the rich Jamaican cultural heritage across Canada.

With every good wish.


Janice Miller
High Commissioner



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario



October 21, 2017

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm wishes to everyone attending *Reflections*, a musical journey of old Jamaica and the Caribbean.

This is a special event marking Jamaica’s 55th Independence Day. What makes this day even more meaningful is that this year, Canada is also celebrating its 150th anniversary as a nation.

It is wonderful to see Jamaican Canadians celebrating these two significant occasions through your love of music and dance showcasing your legendary performing arts traditions.

Throughout its history, Jamaica’s people have blazed trails and left their mark in contemporary music, sports, English-language literature, civil rights and many other fields.

Ontario is proud to be home to a vibrant Jamaican community — a community that has energized our economy and enhanced our culture with their skills, talents and rich cultural traditions.

Canada’s 150th anniversary is an opportunity to join together and celebrate the incredible country we live in.

We have accomplished so much together, and I expect we will achieve even greater things in the next 150 years.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable performance.


Kathleen Wynne
Premier





Ministry of Culture, Gender,
Entertainment and Sport
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MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE OLIVIA GRANGE, CD, MP MINISTER OF
CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT FOR HERITAGE SINGERS
CANADA'S REFLECTIONS PROGRAMME BOOK 2017

11 October 2017

I am pleased to send warm greetings and hearty congratulations to everyone gathered for the Heritage Singers Canada Production, "Reflections: A Walk Down Memory Lane," being staged as a celebratory event marking Jamaica's 55th Anniversary of Independence.

For 40 years, Heritage Singers Canada has continued this proud tradition of sharing a bit of the Jamaica culture with audiences in Canada.

As the Jamaican Minister for Culture, I am happy to learn that your group includes singers from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Canada who will blend their voices in a beautiful salute to my island home. The composition of your group reflects a diversity that is so much a part of Jamaican heritage. Our legacy includes the coming together of peoples from diverse places to our island where over centuries, through blood, sweat and tears, we created our unique ways and our 'Out of Many, One People'.

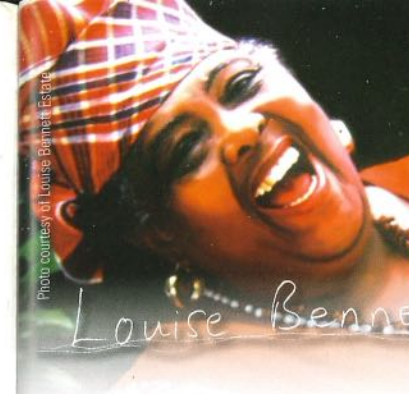
I am excited that this year's production will include a special tribute to the Mother of Jamaican Culture, the Honourable Louise Bennett Coverley, whom we were happy to share with Canada.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful production. I know that "Reflections: A Walk Down Memory Lane," will capture the spirit, energy, and character of our people.

Finally, on behalf of all of Jamaica, let me wish you all Happy Canada 150.

Olivia

Olivia Grange, CD, MP
Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport



Miss Lou ARCHIVES

McMaster
University

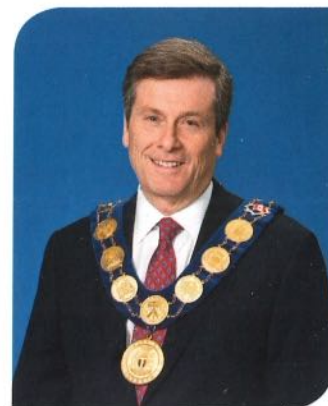
LIBRARY

AT McMASTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, HAMILTON, ON, CANADA

Largely composed of materials collected throughout her time in Canada, the archive of nearly nine meters of textual, graphical and audiovisual materials reflects the life and career of iconic writer, performer and promoter of Jamaican culture, Louise Bennett Coverley.

Explore selected materials from the collection in McMaster University Library's Digital Archive: <http://bit.ly/2g6G805>





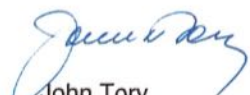
Message from the Mayor

It is my esteemed pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending The Heritage Singers 40th anniversary celebration.

Toronto is one of the world's most multicultural cities and home to people from all over the world. Events such as these celebrate the rich cultures and traditions that make our city so unique.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Yours truly,


John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
100 QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N2



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAMAICA

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MESSAGE

Heritage Singers Canada
40th Anniversary Production
"Reflections - A Walk Down Memory Lane"

Saturday, October 21, 2017



It is with great pleasure that I extend congratulations to the Founder, Mrs. Grace Lyons and the members of the Heritage Singers Canada as you commemorate your 40th Anniversary.

By its very name and purpose, the "Heritage Singers" as an organization embraces and showcases to Canada and the world, our culture, that which makes us and identifies us as the unique people that we are. It is indeed fitting, that your Production this year is entitled *"Reflections - A Walk Down Memory Lane"*, as we celebrate Jamaica's 55th and Canada's 150th Anniversaries of Independence. The shows I am sure, will stimulate Jamaicans in the Diaspora and friends of Jamaica, to develop a more in-depth understanding of Jamaican heritage and inspire a greater appreciation of the culture and talent of the Jamaican people.

I also wish to commend the efforts the Heritage Singers in supporting charitable activities over the years - from donating to other organizations to lending support through free performances. Through its various activities over the years, this organization has been an enormous contributor to the advancement of Jamaican cultural penetration overseas, the reinforcement of the Jamaican identity and the rekindling of the love for and affinity towards the homeland. The positive knock on effects on trade and investment in Jamaica while imperceptible, is profound and cannot be overstated.

The Heritage Singers over the past 40 years have certainly managed to maintain the interest of successive generations with their productions steeped in folklore, colourful costumes, songs, dances and comedy. This has resulted in the transfer of knowledge and understanding of our heritage to the 2nd and 3rd generation Jamaicans.

As Consul General, I urge us all to continue to support the Heritage Singers as they display their unique God-given gifts and talents to the world and perpetuate our rich legacy.


Lloyd Wilks
Consul General



This year sees the convergence of three significant events – the 55th anniversary of Jamaica's independence, the 150th year of modern-day Canada, and the 40th anniversary of the Heritage Singers Canada. It is only fitting that we commemorate these events in the richness of music and stories, the kind the Heritage Singers will present this October 21.

It was my privilege and pleasure to co-chair the GTA's Jamaica50 Celebrations in 2012. At that time, the cultural anchors were a wonderful exposition of Jamaica art at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, and a memorable concert featuring world-class Jamaican vocalists and musicians at the Sony Centre. The concert was enjoyed by some 3300 Jamaicans and friends. As co-chair of this year's Jamaica55 Celebrations, I'm delighted that the cultural centrepiece will be the Heritage Singers' Concert. For 40 years this musical organization has entertained audiences within the GTA, other parts of Canada, and across the globe. In so doing, it has brought joy to the hearts of many, particularly those of us who grew up singing Jamaican folk songs and witnessing the cultural genius of the Hon. Louise Bennett-Coverley (Miss Lou).

I must use this opportunity to thank McMaster University for housing and curating Miss Lou's works and for ensuring this material will be available to future generations. Be it Miss Lou's cultural legacy, or the Heritage Singers ensuring current and future generations remain in touch with Jamaica and Caribbean culture, the stories and journey of a people are best told through music, literature the performing arts in general. This underscores the value of the Heritage Singers as custodians of our culture.

I congratulate Grace Lyons the founder and artistic director of the Heritage Singers for her years of dedication and excellence, as well as the many singers and musicians who dedicated their time, experience and talent in preserving our culture.
Sincerely,

Pamela Appelt

Dr. Pamela Appelt
Chair, Jamaica 55 Steering Committee, Canada



Congratulations Heritage Singers Canada for all your efforts over the years.
We pray the Heritage continues another 40 years and more!

**Dr. Wrenford Simmonds &
Dauna Jones-Simmonds**



Born in Jamaica, he is a versatile keyboard player. He performs with several bands, in addition to the Heritage Singers, and is involved in Caribbean cultural activities generally. He has been with the Heritage Singers for more than 20 years.
- Michael Peynado

The Heritage singers to me is a natural resource of wisdom and knowledge which we share as a culture I further recognize and appreciate the benefit as I keenly listen to the history of how we began. thanks to the beginners.
- Sylvia Williams

I enjoy being involved in arts and entertainment and The Heritage Singers gives me the urge to assist in keeping the cultural roots of folk alive through various international tours and location performances and productions with the group for 32 years.
- Sonia Collins

It's my fervent love of the music that started me on the road to all other genres that I have been involved with over the years. It's the music that I learned from my mother, the music I heard from the troubadours on the sidewalk - the chants, tambourines, the beating drums from the revivalists as they sang "We shall have a grand Time up in Heaven", that etched itself on my soul. The Heritage Singers gave me the avenue to re-live those moments along with the folk music skills learnt from Grace Lyons, the camaraderie and the formation of many great personal friendships over the years.
- Lloyd Chung

Why am I still with the Heritage Singers after all these years?

• • • • •
20 years & over

I have been performing with the Heritage Singers for a total of twenty-five years, not including my sabbatical years. I enjoy singing and performing; I also enjoy the camaraderie, the unity and the family atmosphere.
- Jennifer Fenton

I have been with the Heritage Singers since 1983 and his reason for being in the group so long I love the group and loves to travel to different countries with the group and each week it is like an outing from home and he loves the fellowship with his friends Heritage singers and loves the fellowship. Certain countries for the tours and each week I look forward to going to rehearsals and I love the group and that's why I am with the group.
- Carl Brown

I joined the Heritage Singers in 1978. I enjoy singing and performing with the opportunities the group has allowed her to share her Caribbean culture both locally and internationally. The great friendships formed within the group, the love and support of the members, enables her to persevere in times of difficulty.
- Sharon Lyon

I saw the group perform in 1989 in Hamilton, and fell in love with the camaraderie in the group; I joined the group that very year and remained with them ever since because they allow me to engage with my Jamaican culture and showcase it within Canada and internationally.
- Philemon Campbell

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"A 40-Year Walk Down Memory Lane" opens with friends in Toronto having a great time singing carols on Christmas Eve, which segues into a nostalgic Jamaican folk song to 'throw off' the winter blues. This is followed by a scene in which a conversation between "Aunty" and young Jimmy, who is curious about an old Jamaican folk song she is humming unconsciously, leads progressively to an explanation of the Heritage Singers (Canada) 'birth' in 1977.

As "Aunty" continues Jimmy's informal lesson regarding his Jamaican roots, she makes unavoidable reference to The Hon. Louise Bennett-Coverley (affectionately called "Miss Lou" by Jamaicans), and her superlative role in lifting the island's dialect "Jamaican Creole" (commonly called Patois) to a level of respectability.

Subsequent scenes show "Granny" preparing to send her grand-daughter to Canada, including a consultation with "Maddah" (a 'spiritualist') for assurance that the young woman will be safe while overseas. The consultation leads to Maddah's extending an invitation to a Pukumina/Revival Meeting where the migrating relative can receive a blessing.

The "Walk" provides glimpses of some of the group's previous shows, among them: nostalgic Jamaican folk songs and Mento music; heart-warming religious favourites; emotional "Spiritual"; award-winning Independence Festival songs; the Quadrille (originally a European dance-form, now seen almost exclusively at festivals); rib-tickling scenes from past Heritage drama/pantomime productions – "Zuzuwah" and "Olde Tyme Country Wedding." The program also includes, for the first time, a 'touch' of Hakka music- Solo by Lloyd Chung- Song Bie (Bidding Farewell) in tribute to the Jamaican-Chinese culture; and a Mandarin song "Mei Hua" in tribute to Taiwan, which was voted by the Heritage Singers as the venue of our most enjoyable overseas performance.

The various elements of the production are woven together with narration provided by guest-participant, Jamaica's renowned performer Joan-Andrea Hutchinson.

Tonight's Program

♪ Introduction

♪ First Performance at Harbourfront Centre

♪ Tribute to Miss Lou

♪ Channa Goes to Canada (Zuzuwah)

♪ Segments from Hallelujah Pepperpot

♪ A taste of Quadrille

♪ A taste of Festival Songs

♪ INTERMISSION - 20 Minutes

♪ Zuzuwah Production - The Airport Scene (Taste of Mento)

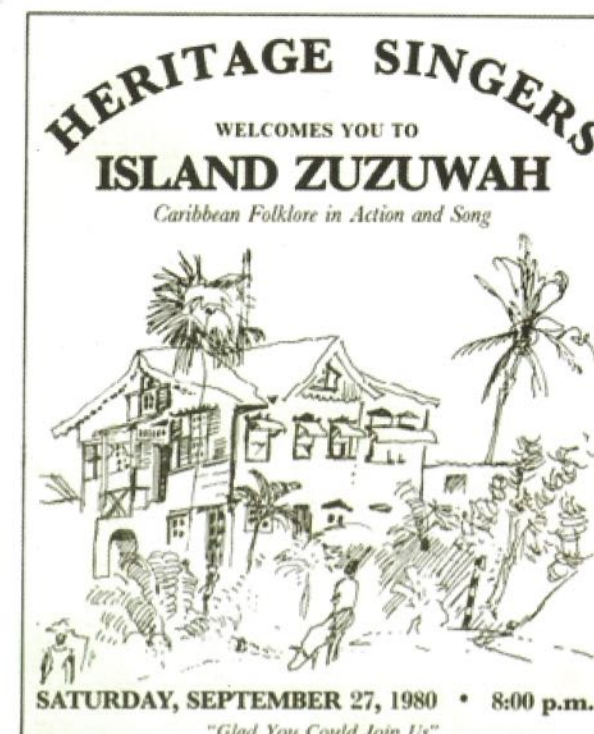
♪ Favourite Tour - Taiwan Song "Mei Hua" (featuring members of the Toronto Taiwanese Choir)

♪ Segments from Olde Tyme Country Wedding (written by O. Green, V. Laylor and G. Lyons)

♪ Finale



First Production



"DE MARKET"

The story...

A young girl, Ada Liza is in love with a fisherman, disobeys her mother and runs away to the Market Place to visit her lover. While there, she meets some of her friends and joins them in the gaiety.

Unknown to Ada Liza, this fisherman also has another lover, Betsy, who is one of her friends. On this particular Saturday morning, when Betsy, who sells in the Market Place and who, incidentally is one of her friends. On this particular Saturday morning when Betsy understands from Ada Liza that they are with the same man, and he has been making promises to Ada, She becomes quite angry and kills da Liza in front of everyone in the Market Place. Ada Liza's mother who had witnessed all these confrontations, is over come with grief and mourns the death of her only daughter, killed over a mere fisherman.

Back in 2002, the group brought down the LTM Pantomime Company from Jamaica and Miss Lou was our Patron for the production. Pictured is her message from the programme book.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of The Hon. Dr. Louise Bennett-Coverley MBE, OJ, D Litt, ON



It has been my pleasure to be associated with The Heritage Singers for many years. I congratulate them for their efforts to keep the Caribbean and African folk culture alive as an important contribution to the Canadian culture.

The Heritage Singers have been doing a "boonoonoonoos" job of promoting our brand of cultural expression through tours to other Canadian provinces, the United States, Europe and to the Caribbean. This evening, they are showcasing the LTM Pantomime Company's

production of August Mawmin. I know that we can all look forward to a cultural feast of folklore in song, dance, and true Caribbean traditions.

Again, congratulations Heritage Singers, and Walk Good!

"Miss Lou"

Former Members

JOHNSON, Vince
JONES, Christon
LEE-KAM, Stephen
LAZARUS, Raynor
LYON, Errol
McDONALD, Chris
McKENZIE, Wesley
MORGAN, Tonian
MUNROE, Maurice
PARKINSON, Shemroy
PECK, Nicolo
POWELL, Rudy
PRYCE, Lincoln
RIGBY, Glen
ROBINSON, Ron
SALANITRO, Paolo
SILVERA, Peter
SPRINGER, Sam
TINGLING, Winston
WATKINS, Anthony
WATSON, Balmain

Former Members

FRANCIS, Wendy
FRANS, Dianne
GARNES, Thecla
GAYLE, Donna
HARVEY, Margaret
HITCHINS, Grace
HILL, Charlotte
HOHN, Nadia
JOHNSON, Sandra
KALONJI, Georgine
KELLY, Georgianna
KING, Tamia
MARTIN, Judith
MARZOUCA, NADIA
McINTOSH, Alethia
McLEAN, Julie
MOORE, Tammy
NICHOLSON, Beryl
PECK, Patricia
PARKINSON, Delores
PARRIS, Shaundelle
RAY, Arlene
RAYMAN, Alema
RIGBY, Doreen
RODRIGUEZ, Vilma
THOMAS, Aldene
THOMPSON, Beverly
OMOZUMA, Maija-Liisa
WHITTAKER, Kellie
WILLIAMS, Margaret
WILLIAMS, Michelle
WINT, Eleanor

Members of the Heritage Singers who are leaving to represent Canada at the 1998 Nan Ying International Folklore Festival in Toronto October 15-18. The Toronto group is one of 18 that will take part in the festival referred to as "the Olympics of Folklore" without the competitive element. Among the participants are: Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey, Mexico, Poland, and the United States. The festival is founded and led by...



Heritage Singers Bios



Agatha Gordon - Soprano- was born in Jamaica and has been a member of the Heritage Singers about four years. She has been involved in singing/acting since the age of 9, in a variety of choirs and groups, including the Toronto Billy Graham Crusade Choir. She is currently on the choir of the Bramalea Christian Fellowship church.



Canute Rodney -Bass- was born in Kingston, Jamaica, migrating to Canada in 1975 with a Technical & Marketing background. His love for singing and performing since childhood prepared him for joining The Heritage Singers in 2001. Since being in the group he has enjoyed travelling locally and internationally and developed a deeper interest for travelling. Canute loves touring with the group and being a part of the extended family known as The Heritage Singers.



Carl Brown - Tenor- Jamaican born, has been with the Heritage Singers since 1981. He has diverse talents that extend to the world of modeling where he has been a prize-winning contestant as well as a pageant administrator. Carl also sings with the Malvern Christian Assembly choir in Scarborough.



Denise Cavalier - Soprano- Born to be on stage, Denise has graced our stage with African and Caribbean dance. Denise can also add folk singer to her roster of talents. Born and raised in Toronto, Denise finds herself immersed in a world inspired by the roots and culture of her parents' homeland of Port Antonio, Jamaica. Her key to success is to create an atmosphere of jubilation that is wonderfully infectious by choosing to love life no matter what crosses her path.



Doretta Preston - Alto- was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica and is currently working in the healthcare field. She joined The Heritage Singers back in 2013 and looks forward to rehearsal each week because the group is very interesting, fun and allows her to socialize and meet new people.



Douglas Fernandes - Bass- was born in Pakistan. He has been singing in public since the age of seven and first performed on radio at the age of 11. Doug joined the Heritage Singers in 2004 and has sung in the choral sections in three productions of the Royal Opera and Opera Mississauga. He also sings in church choirs.



Galbert Spence - Musician (Guitar)- pka Gillie Genesis, Multi Disciplined/multi Instrumentalist. Music Producer/ Director/Musician/Arranger was told that he would walk with kings, but not only did he walk with legends, he became one! He journeyed from a small Gospel group in Jamaica to experience international circuits, From 10yrs as Resident Musician for a Top World Resort, to the greatest festivals, venues and stages like Australia's "East Coast Blues and Roots Festival," Denmark's "Roskilde Rock Festival", Switzerland's "Montrux Jazz Festival", USA's "The House of Blues", to name a few, and as the headlining act, he made history as a member of the first Reggae Band to play "The Hollywood Bowl" and toured with bands like Chaka Demus & Pliers, JahMan Livi, and Cocoa Tea. He spent years as band leader for the multi-Grammy award-winning band, the Burning Spear. He's now launched his own Production Company, Primrox Music and they work with promising artists like Rayzalution Toronto All Girls Reggae Band.



Glen Gordon - Tenor - Originally from Jamaica, he has been in the group for several years. He is always ready and willing to help out and is a wonderful addition to the tenor section.



Grace Lyons - Founder/Director, was raised with a healthy dose of Jamaican roots and culture. The church played a leading role in her family and nurtured her love of the arts and sense of community and fellowship—ingredients that would later serve her very well. Grace's musical expertise was first honed on the church organ. She soon moved on to playing piano and was tutored by the late Joyce Britton, Julliard School of Music graduate. Before leaving Jamaica, Grace joined the Jamaica Folk Singers, which acted as an entry point to founding and directing the Heritage Singers in 1977, shortly after arriving in Canada.



Grace McDonald - Soprano- Grace joined the Heritage Singers as a Soprano and a dancer in May 2015. She brings to the Heritage years of performance experience, particularly with the Father Holung and Friends Ensemble (Missionaries of the Poor), Jamaica. Grace was the Executive Director-Dance and Piano Tutor for the GEM Arts Performing Academy, Jamaica. She has an Associate Degree in the Performing Arts from the Excelsior Community College and won the Most Outstanding Performing Arts (Evening) Student Award for 2008. She also received a merit award in Arts Management, January 2003 from the American University, Washington DC.



Grace Neita - Soprano- has recently rejoined The Heritage Singers. She previously performed with the Jamaica Folk Singers in her native Jamaica. This is not her first Pantomime with the group; she was a part of Zuzuwah 2. She enjoys being a cultural ambassador along with her fellow group members and looks forward to her future with The Heritage Singers.



Howard Davis - Tenor- was born in Jamaica and raised in England. He migrated to Canada in 1981 and has been a keen supporter of cultural and community events ever since. Howard attended performances of The Heritage Singers for several years before joining the group in 1997. He has toured with the company to Taiwan, Germany, Mexico and Venezuela.



Hurban Johnson - Musician (Steel Drum)- hails from Trinidad. A retired electrical engineer, he plays the steel drum professionally, his preferred instrument being the double second steel-drum. Hurban has toured with the Heritage Singers (Mexico and Venezuela) and played at the world steel band competition in Madison Square Garden. He also toured with bands in Canada, USA, Bahamas, Tobago and other places, and participated in many musical festival competitions in Trinidad & Tobago.



Jean Allen - Alto- has been a member of the Heritage Singers since 2000. She enjoys immensely the cultural stance of the group, but also has a strong passion for gospel and traditional music. Jean is a former member of the Cable & Wireless Chorale and the diocesan Festival Choir of Jamaica. She finds singing and dancing quite therapeutic.



Jennifer Fenton - Soprano- was born in Trinidad, where she sang in church and school choirs. She also performed in dramatic productions, danced and sang in the island's "Better Village Folk Festival" competition. Jennifer joined the Heritage Singers in its early years, and then left for several years. She is happy to be back singing and performing with the group.



Joy Davy - Alto- Joy joined the Heritage Singers in 2016. Of Jamaican origin, she enjoyed singing with small choirs and is now excited by her first ever big stage performance. She has a background in teaching and human resource management.

Heritage Singers Bios



Ken Bowen – Bass- is from the parish of Hanover, Jamaica and migrated to Canada in 1967. A former teacher by profession, he is also a long-standing, active member of the First Baptist Church of Oshawa, including membership in the church choir. Ken joined the Heritage Singers in 2003.



Ken Oxley - Musician (Bass Guitar)- Born in Trinidad and Tobago. Accomplished Musician. Started learning the Piano at age 7. Completed Royal School of Music exams up to Grade 7, Pianoforte Practical and Grade 6 Theory. Played Music as a Keyboard Player, Guitarist and Bass Guitarist in local bands in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in the Calypso Tents. Selected as a Judge in the Toronto Pan Alive competitions as well as the Calypso Monarch competitions on a few occasions. Member of the Heritage Group since 1997/98



Lee-Anne Lyon-Bartley - Soprano- is the daughter of Grace Lyons and has been around the group since the ripe old age of 2. Throughout the years she has dropped in and out of the group and performs with them on occasion. Her main role in this production is on the planning end as the Event Co-ordinator, assisting in bringing all the pieces together. She thanks everyone and anyone who has ever been a part of the Heritage Singers for keeping the folk culture of the Caribbean alive and well in Canada and abroad since 1977, it has helped her understand her roots and become more confident in her own skin.



Lloyd Chung – Tenor- was born in Jamaica, where he sang in the Glee Club at St. George's College. He was the vocalist with the dance band The Vagabonds and performed in plays while in high school. He joined the Heritage Singers briefly after its founding, and then returned to the group in 1999. Lloyd also sings in church choirs, at weddings, funerals and private functions.



Marcia Ambersley – Soprano- is a native of Kingston, Jamaica. She joined the Heritage Singers four years ago and enjoys performing and travelling with the group; she travelled with the group to Venezuela and England. She loves singing, dancing and acting. She also sings in her church choir.



Marilyn Smith – Soprano- has been singing publicly since age 11. Born in Jamaica, she participated in choral celebrations of Caribbean folk and Spanish music during high school festivals. Marilyn sings with St. Aidan Church Choir, and participated in the Toronto '96' Billy Graham Crusade Choir. She joined the Heritage Singers in August 1995 and toured with the group to New York, Holland, Taiwan, Germany, Mexico and Venezuela.



Michael Peynado - Musician (Keyboard) - is a versatile keyboard player. He performs with several bands, in addition to the Heritage Singers, and is involved in Caribbean cultural activities generally. He has been with the Heritage Singers for 18 years.



Moya Gayle – Alto - has performed with the Kingston and St. Andrew Baptist Chorale for 10 years. She travelled with the group to several international conferences across the USA and throughout the Caribbean. She has also been singing with youth chorales and church choirs from the tender age of thirteen. Moya joined The Heritage Singers in 2009 and looks forward to her future with the group. She works as a Nutrition Consultant.



Orville Green – Bass- is Jamaican by birth and has been performing publicly since childhood, representing his schools in singing, elocution and drama. Orville has been in choirs most of his life and also accompanies on the piano and pipe organ. He joined the Heritage Singers in 2006, and is a chorister at Lansing United Church.



Phil Campbell – Bass- is a native of St. Andrew, Jamaica. He has been with the Heritage Singers since 1989 and is a former member of the renowned Jamaican Folk Singers. A self-taught artist and trained graphic designer, he expresses his affection for his culture on canvas. Phil has performed with the Heritage Singers in many local and international venues including New York, Holland, Taiwan, Mexico and Venezuela. He played the role of David in the Heritage Pantomime "Zuzuwah 3".



Roy Gordon - Tenor-He began singing Tenor in high school with my school choir back in Grenada. After completing high school, he did not sing in any group until 2001, when he joined La Petite Musical of Toronto. After 4 years, Roy took a break from La Petite Musical and during this time he met the leader of The Heritage Singers, Ms. Grace Lyons. She extended an invitation to join her group. Roy liked what the group was doing and here he is today, celebrating the 40th anniversary with the Heritage Singers of Toronto. It's a pleasure to be part of this momentous occasion



Sam Donkoh - Drummer/Percussionist- Is from Ghana and is the co-founder of Toronto's Sankofa African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Flaming Dono Drum and Dance Group and Afraranto Highlife Band. Sam has been a member of the Heritage Singers since 1991.



Sharon Lyon – Soprano- is a native of Kingston, Jamaica. She joined the Heritage Singers in 1978 and enjoys performing and touring with the group. She was trained by the renowned soprano, the late Joyce Britton, and sings with her church choir. Although music is her first love, she has acted in the Heritage Singers productions of "Zuzuwah 1," "Zuzuwah 3" and Devon Haughton's "2 for 2."



Sonia Collins – Soprano- hails from Jamaica where she sang in her church choir, winning numerous prizes as soloist in various competitions. She was a member of her school choir and of the Jamaican Folk Singers with which she toured until her migration to Canada. Sonia joined the Heritage Singers in 1986.



Sylvia Williams – Alto- was born in Jamaica and began singing at the age of eight in church events, then in high school and other choirs. She joined the Heritage Singers many years ago and has participated in several overseas competitions with the group, in addition to the local performances at home in Canada. Sylvia is also a member soprano in the Hillcrest Christian Church chancel choir.



Valerie Laylor – Alto- hails from Manchester, Jamaica, where she sang with her church and school choirs. Her love of singing prompted her to become a founding member of the Heritage Singers in 1977. She has performed with the group at a number of national and international venues, and considers the experience "truly rewarding."



Yvette Reid – Alto- is from Jamaica, where she participated in speech competitions during her school years. She also took creative dance lessons and competed in school dance contests, performed as part of a singing and dance group in school fundraisers, and in Independence Day celebrations. Yvette has been with the Heritage Singers since 2008.

Cast of Characters

Narrator Joan Andrea Hutchinson

Grace Grace Lyons

Jimmy & School boy - Kaden Stephens

Aunty Sandra Whiting

Grandmother & Miss Fanny- Valerie Laylor

Granddaughter & Mrs. Spencer- Doretta Preston

Maddah- Joan Andrea Hutchinson

Baldwin & Person 1 Phil Campbell

Person 2 & Dulcie Yvette Reid

Puncie & Mrs. Bennett- Sonia Collins

Carlton- Doug Fernandes

Shopkeeper Maas Sala- Lloyd Chung

DC Smith Glen Gordon

Babs Denise Cavalier

Passengers Carl Brown, Grace MacDonald, Howard Davis, Ken Bowen & Roy Gordon

Customs Officer Robert Owen

Mr. Spencer Orville Green

Tom Giddy Howard Davis

Norma Jean Allen

Warner woman Grace Lyons

Minister Dr. Clive Forrester

Cake Bearers Joy Davy, Agatha Gordon, Jennifer Fenton

Widow Grace MacDonald

Present Members



SOPRANOS

Grace Lyons
Sonia Collins
Denise Cavalier
Lee-Anne Lyon-
Bartley
Sharon Lyon
Valerie Laylor
Jennifer Fenton
Grace MacDonald
Joy Davy
Marilyn Davis
Agatha Gordon

ALTOS

Jean Allen
Moya Gayle
Sylvia Williams
Yvette Reid
Doretta Preston

TENORS

Lloyd Chung
Carl Brown
Constantine
Blackwood
Glenford Gordon
Howard Davis
Roy Gordon

BASS

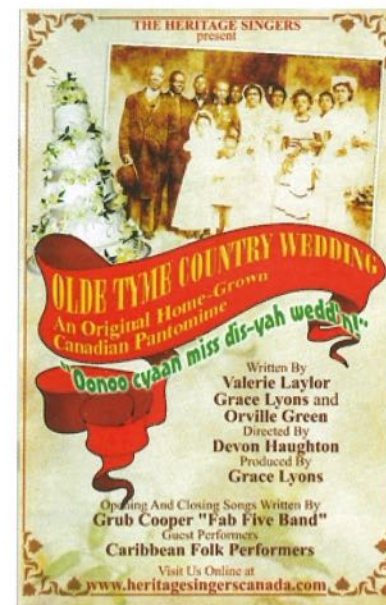
Orville Green
Phil Campbell
Doug Fernandes
Ken Bowen
Canute Rodney

MUSICIANS

Michael Peynado
Ken Oxley
Gilbert Spence
Sam Donkoh
Hurban Johnson



Performance Synopsis



Synopsis of "Olde Tyme Country Wedding"
Written by Orville Green

The Jamaican 'old time' country wedding harks back to the 19th century. Unique features of the event included: wedding Godfather and Godmother charged with responsibilities for the preparations; decorating the wedding site with boughs from the coconut tree; the ceremonial arrival of the wedding cakes carried on the heads of gaily dressed women in procession; guests paying for the privilege of "speechifying" during the wedding reception; and abundant quantities of local food and drink. The original production of the Heritage Singers' "Olde Tyme Country Wedding" (2012) was a 2 hrs/12 mins presentation. Although this Retrospective performance has been reduced to an approximately 20-minute duration, careful effort has been made to maintain the essential elements.

Brief Storyline

Toronto-raised Babs Spencer is excitedly packing for a long-overdue visit back to Uphill, her Jamaican birthplace and childhood home; however, her parents are divided in their acceptance of her imminent trip. On the other end, her childhood playmate, Baldwin Bennett, informs his current love-interest, Norma, that "an old friend" his mother used to baby-sit is due to visit soon – and Norma explodes in a jealous rage. During the visit, the once-childhood friendship quickly blossoms into romantic emotions, observed by Norma, and Baldwin's outright acknowledgment of this drives her into a frenzy. In rapid succession: a woman-to-woman faceoff ensues; Babs curtails her visit and returns home angry and sad; Baldwin mends fences with her by letter, and proposes; a wedding is planned and takes place in Uphill, much to the delight of the village's residents. And...all is well!



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Congratulations on 40 years of cultural journey in our community! We thank the Heritage Singers for sharing their talents and may God Bless you today and years to come.

Jerry and Sylvia Hudson

Happy Birthday Jerry From Sylvia



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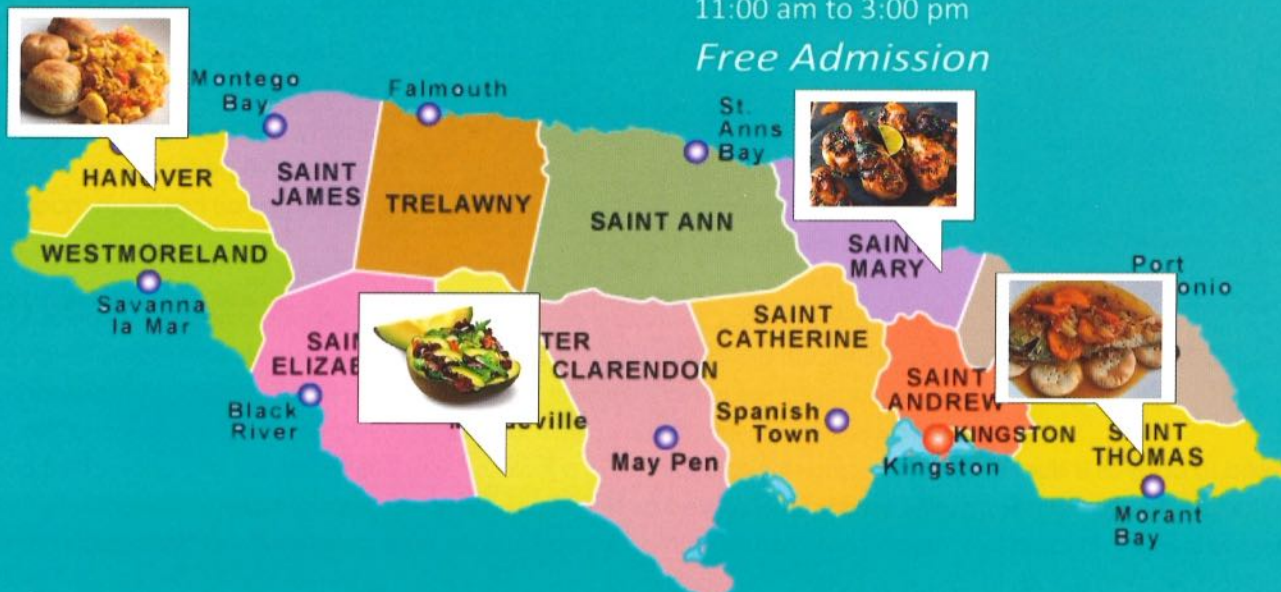
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Jamaican Canadian Centre

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11:00 am to 3:00 pm

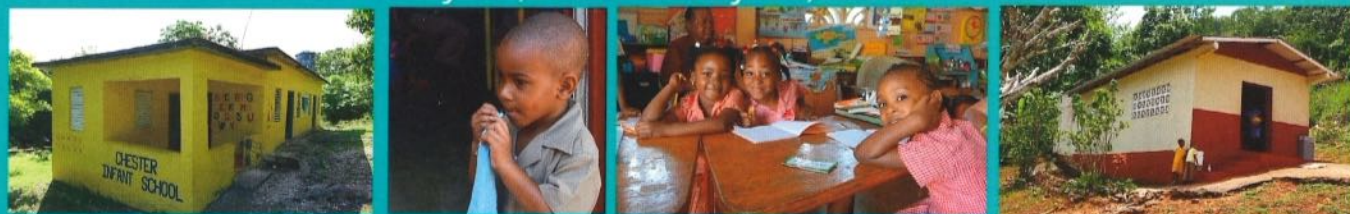
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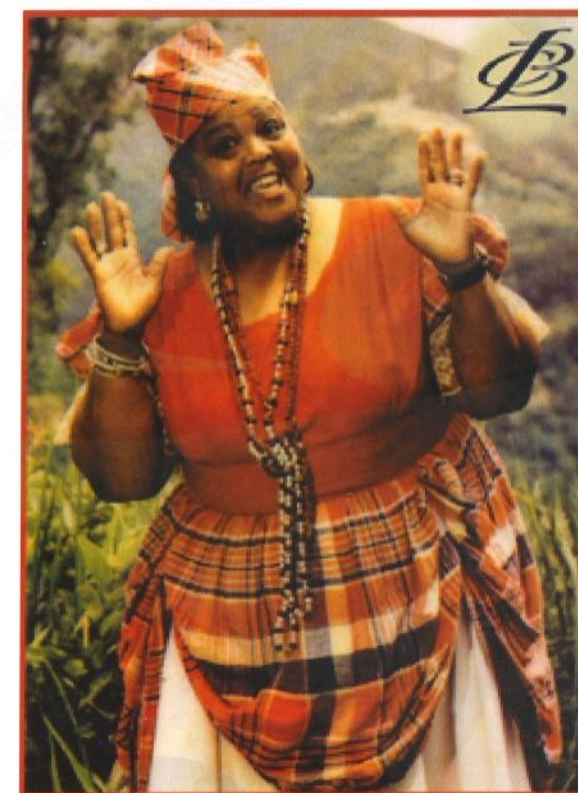
More details available at
pacecanada.org/AASParishPopUp

Tribute to Miss Lou

Miss Lou was a constant support and friend to Heritage Singers over the years. I fondly remember when Queen Elizabeth was in Canada and we performed for her at the CNE fairgrounds. Miss Lou had already retired and it was amazing to see how she came alive, dancing and prancing on stage as if she was 40 years younger. That's the Miss Lou with whom I associated over the years. She was always entertaining friends and it was always a pleasure to hang-out at her home and just talk about any subject. She always spoke highly of us, and in one of our brochures she referred to our presentation of Pantomime by saying: "Christmas time is pantomime and I congratulate The Heritage Singers for their presentation of Pantomime."

TRIBUTE SONG TO MISS LOU

(Tune: Dip an' Fall back)



Your Jamaicans they so love you, they cannot let you go,
they know you must be tired as you go to and fro,
so Lady of our country and Shakespeare of our land,
the culture you have taught us all, has kept us proud and strong.
You performing long ago, your example still a flow,
the performers in our land and far, respect your shining star.
Mutabaruka, The Jamaica Folk Singers, Heritage Singers
University Singers, Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Lovingdeer, Oliver,
and many too numerous to name have exemplified your works.
And now Miss Lou, Chalk-Talk and you feel justly proud,
that the torch you lit so long ago, has caused a revolution in our culture,
That will NEVER, NEVER DIE.

Written by Grace Carter-Henry Lyons - Founder/Musical Director, Heritage Singers

Guest Performers

Joan Andrea Hutchinson

Cultural edutainer, writer, motivational speaker and story teller, the dynamic Joan Andrea Hutchinson continues to promote and preserve Jamaican culture through her poems, stories and dramatic monologues. For Joan Andrea, who has produced three books and seven CDs about Jamaican culture, "it is critical that we document ourselves, so that others will not have to write our social and cultural history for us, from their perspective."

Her work in the preservation of Jamaican culture is well known and she has been given the status of Language ambassador by the City College of Birmingham in the UK, and has received several awards for culture.

She is the self-published author of three books and producer of

seven CDs on Jamaican culture, spanning proverbs, Anancy stories and traditional Jamaican practices – work which is used as much for teaching as for entertainment. An avid scholar and personal friend of the late Dr. Honourable Louise Bennett Coverley, Miss Lou, she conceptualized and produced her final major recording, the CD - Lawd Di Riddim Sweet on which the Heritage Singers performed. She is also an honorary member of the Heritage Singers and has been guest performer for several of their shows.

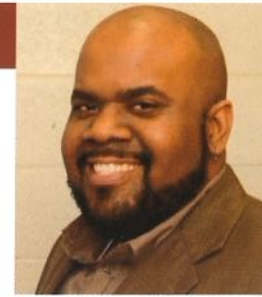
Joan Andrea Hutchinson has delivered several presentations on Caribbean Language and culture in the UK, Canada, the USA and the Caribbean. Her poems are a staple for performers in the annual JCDC Festival of the Performing Arts and various pageants and studied and interviewed by Jamaican and overseas students. She is also a well-respected communications professional whose diverse skills set includes speech and advertising copywriting, designing communications campaigns, editing books, and producing features for radio and television and was a television news anchor. Joan Andrea Hutchinson is a Justice of the Peace for the Parish of Kingdon.



Kaden Stephen feels elated to be performing with The Heritage Singers, in their 40th anniversary celebration. His passion for acting led him to community theatre at the early age of 5, and he has been heading towards the lights ever since. He recently played Young Themba in the Broadway Premiere of *Sousatska*, and prior to that enjoyed a yearlong performance playing Young Lola, in the Mirvish Production of *Kinky Boots*. Other recent credits include voice over work on the renewed series, *The Magic School Bus* (Tim Johnson) and Disney's animated series, *PJ Masks* (Howler). He has had lead roles in *The Wiz* (Scarecrow), *Mulan Jr.*, (Fa Zhou) and *Annie* (Max). Kaden also loves to dance and he set the stage 'on fire' when he performed on The Apollo Theatre stage in Harlem, New York. Lot's of love goes out to his family and friends who continue to help him soar.



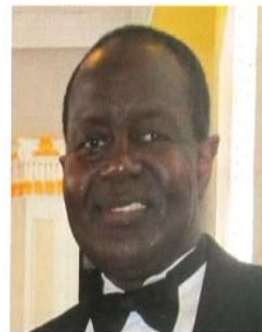
Sandra Whiting is a speaker, storyteller, Event Host and community volunteer. In her diverse career Sandra has worked as a TV host, newspaper columnist, cultural arts programmer, event planner and entrepreneur. She has been involved in the management of many culturally diverse community programs such as *Carnivallisima*, *Luminateau* and *Kuumba* (annual Black History Month programme). She was also the Managing Editor of *Excellence Magazine* for Women and the Cultural Arts Programmer for Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. She is currently the president of PACE Canada Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education).



Clive Forrester is a linguist who lectures in the Dept. of English Language and Literature at University of Waterloo. He was a regular participant in the JCDC school's drama festival in Jamaica, a member of the University Dramatic Arts Society as well as the University Players, appearing in plays such as "One of Our Son's is Missing" direct by Dr. Bryan Heap in Jamaica, and "Feminine Justice" directed by Marcia Brown in Toronto. Clive has taught courses in Jamaican language and culture at York University and enjoys dancing, acting, and writing short plays.



Tony Pierre was born into a musical family in his native Trinidad and Tobago, Tony studied classical piano from the age of 8. He was always drawn to the rich folk and popular music of the Caribbean however, and by his late teens began playing pan with one of Trinidad's top steelbands, Silver Stars. Moving to Canada for a university education, that passion for music led him to perform with Toronto steelbands; act and play percussion in theatre and folk ensembles; and perform on keyboards in pop bands; all part of the rich world music culture in Toronto. Tony now leads his own jazz sextet, Kalabash, as a percussionist, but is always happy to sit in with percussion ensembles like Toronto's Samba Squad, or Caribbean folk ensembles like the Heritage Singers.



Robert Owen- Tenor- Jamaican born tenor, Robert has performed such roles as Alfredo Germont (in Verdi's *La Traviata*) and many more. A graduate of the Hartt School of Music (University Of Hartford), Robert studied voice with Jamaica's own Fay Ennever (Soprano). He has appeared with the Niagara and Peterborough Symphonies, The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Canadian Opera Company Chorus. As a member of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale he has performed with Kathleen Battle and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and performed several times at The Harry Jerome Awards. He sang in Rome for Pope Benedict in 2013 and is Presently the tenor soloist at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church and is a music teacher with The Toronto District School Board.



Tania Lisbeth Hernandez (nee Mayne) is a 'bawn Jamaican', and proudly calls herself a 'CanaJama', being a Canadian citizen. She is a Multisensory Language Practitioner, teaches English as a Second Language, and is a Behaviour Interventionist - teaching functional skills to children with autism. Tania authored the book "What Teachers Are Made Of" (2015). Back in the early 2000s, Tania produced a video called *Canada Nice But I' Col'l*, with the mentoring and help of Robert and Fay Salmon Lord of the Jamaican Canadian Cultural Association of British Columbia. The Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverely is her hero and cultural icon, who she has looked upon from a child. She enjoys performing Jamaican skit comedy and performing Miss Lou's 'Labrish' poems.



Hudson Forde is originally from Trinidad and is a drummer with Ballet Creole and teacher. He is also the founder of Drumming and Dance Ensemble in Scarborough and volunteers as an Afro-Caribbean drumming instructor for inner-City children.

Pocomania (Pukumina) Revival

Written by Grace Lyons

Our presentation today is a mixture of Pocomania (Pukumina) and Revival). It is commonly agreed by scholars of New World Black culture that one of the strongest areas of African retention is in the Black religious experience and expression. Even before slavery was abolished, Christianity had begun to trickle down to the slaves. Christ was easily acceptable to them. The missionaries brought with them the hymn book and the Sankey hymnal and taught their songs to the Africans. [Sacred Songs and Solos was an 1877 hymn collection by the evangelical duo of Ira David Sankey and Dwight Lyman Moody.] The Africans in turn made these songs excitingly interesting. The Africans knew that God was everywhere and the very formalized type of worship and containing him in a church for worshipping was difficult to accept. The African used his whole self in religious rites, his emotions and his body played an integral part in worshipping God and hence the Pukumina. (Miss Lou explained this to me, saying the White man did not understand this form of worship with the whole self and body, so he saw it as madness -- hence the name they coined Poco (little) Mania (Madness). The actual name she told me is Puku-mina. Expression of ecstasy within the groups who are still involved in Pukumina is controlled by the tempo of the drums. The musical element of Pukumina is singing and movements usually accompanied by a bass drum and a rattling drum suspended from the neck and shoulder. Singing is generally in harmony and often short verses from orthodox hymnals are created, which are repeated constantly but with ornamentation and a phenomenon called "chupping". Chupping is a guttural sound which is usually done at intervals in a song or at the end, while going around in a circle. This is serious, conscious activity to those who worship in this manner and is not to be perceived as comical.

The Quadrille

Written by Grace Carter Henry Lyons

Choreographed by Clive Forrester, PhD

The Quadrille was similar to going to a dance today, and the dancers had great, clean fun. The Quadrille was a dance-form that was fashionable in late 18th- and 19th Century Europe, and became "Jamaicanised" when the slaves mimicked the "Massa's" ballroom events in the estate Great House. Although of European origin, it was made more exciting in African orientation; and while it is not nearly as popular as it used to be, it is still performed today, mainly in festivals and competitions throughout the island. Performed by four couples in a rectangular formation, it is related to American square dancing. In our grandparents' days, the dancing of the Quadrille was an evening that was eagerly anticipated and was usually held in the rural schoolrooms and town halls. The Quadrille dance starts with bows and curtsies, an erect posture, and represents the genteel, polite era of our culture. It is danced to Mento music and, like Mento, has been handed down over the years. There are two styles: the Ballroom style (formal and elegant) and the Camp style, which is rustic and lively.


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Mento

Written By Grace Carter-Henry Lyons

Edited by Orville Green

As children, most of us growing up in the Colonial system were forbidden to sing words or tunes from Folk songs, Mento or Quadrille music. They were considered the forbidden songs or tunes. Singing "London Bridge is Falling Down" or "Brown Girl in the Ring" was totally acceptable. Mento and Quadrille, however, were equated with today's Dance Hall or Reggae music by the so-called sophisticated types, and some of the lyrics (such as in Calypso) were simply a play on words and really cleverly disguised, quite unlike the bawdily explicit words that are considered the norm today.

Mento band instruments are comprised mainly of rhumba box, banjo, guitar, drums, graters, saxophones, and mouth organs. The Mento style of music originated in the 1700's and the rhythm and belly movements of the dance are still used today. It was brought to Jamaica by our forefathers who came as slaves, and if we compare the musical pattern with those of the other Caribbean islands we will see the similarities.

Brief History of the Hakka Chinese in Jamaica

Written by Lloyd Chung, Heritage Singers member

For various reasons, the Hakka Chinese started arriving in the Caribbean and Guyana in the mid-1800s.

Due to legal and financial restraints at the time, many were not able to bring their family with them, so they ended up lonely, missing their family and the friends still in China. Mass Sala sometimes reflects on his situation and becomes emotional whenever these feelings come over him, hence the song "Song Bie" or (Bidding Goodbye) today, which describes the beautiful landscape and the friends left behind.

Many got involved in what became known as the "Chiney" shop, and these shops were the focal point of many villages and small communities. Over time, many friendships were developed within the broad Jamaican community, also, some liaisons.

Credit or "trust", became an integral part of doing business. Where credit was given, books were kept by both parties, and payment was made after farm produce was sold or workers received their pay from their places of employment.

On a personal note, I finally met my family in China for the first time on a visit to China in 2008, and this was a very intensely emotional event on both sides, which I will never forget.




The Board and Members of **Canadian Friends-St. Thomas Health Care Org.** are honoured to extend a hearty congratulations to the Heritage Singers for bringing 40 YEARS of Jamaica's CULTURAL ARTS in Music, Drama and Dance to Canadians. Salutations to Grace Lyons and all the hard working group members. BRAVO! Info: Dan Williamson dwilliamson@trebnet.com

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Production Team



Amah Harris - OCT., B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.- Director- of the First Half and Airport Scene. Amah is a pioneer in the field of Black Theatre in Canada," said Evelyn Myrie, then Co -Chair of The John Holland Awards, one of the many awards won by Amah Harris. Seen as an innovator in education and theatre, Ms. Harris has been integrating elements of both disciplines to yield the most productive results from those with whom she works, ranging from professional performers to school students. Working in both fields since 1970, when she arrived in Canada and even before in her home country of Dominica, Amah's work in public education and race relations towards the harmonious coexistence of peoples has received kudos from audiences, clients and press. She is a director, playwright, producer and educator whose works have been hailed by literally hundreds of thousands across Canada, the U.S. and as far south as South Africa. It has been a thrill working with such a committed and talented company, "Heritage Singers". Congratulations on 40 years of excellence."



Douglas Prout - Director of Olde Tyme Country Wedding and Lighting Designer - is among the most experienced and versatile Jamaican theatre practitioners of his generation. He recently directed the hilarious Marcia Brown comedy/drama "Blood Ticka Dan Watah" which is still playing to appreciative audiences across the GTA. He followed that up by directing "A Little White Lie" for the amazing Troy Crossfield. "A Little White Lie" was sold out for all the performances and the overwhelming response has forced the Producers to bring it back for several more performances in the near future. Douglas is a genuine theatre veteran boasting a career spanning 40 years and glowing accomplishments in the disciplines of Set Design, Writing, Directing and Producing. Over the last 10 years Douglas has concentrated on directing brand new plays for accomplished & celebrated writer Basil Dawkins and the more recently directing the King of Comedy himself, Oliver Samuels - in "Embassy Saga", "Dolly House", "Divorce Papers", "Guilt Trip and "Four Can't Play".

As a full time theatre Director, Doug is fully engaged with the regular requests for his services in Kingston Jamaica, in Florida USA, across the wider Caribbean, into the U.K. and more recently here in Canada where he permanently resides.

As a long-time admirer of the richness and diversity of the Caribbean culture, Doug is delighted by this opportunity to collaborate with the awesome talents of Grace Lyons and her outstanding cultural ambassadors, the Heritage Singers!



Fabian Coverley-Technical Consultant- Fabian grew up in the theatre world of Jamaica going to shows, pantomimes, and concerts with his parents. He has worked in Television and Radio broadcasting in Jamaica and Canada. He works with Heritage and Church groups, in the Production of concerts, cantatas, and Worship. Currently volunteering with The Heritage Singers, as the Technical Consultant for the Pantomime productions, providing guidance and assistance in the production, lighting and audio areas. When not volunteering with Heritage and church productions.



Joan Pierre- Stage Manager- Joan has had a multi-faceted career encompassing administrative management and consulting in the public and private sectors; event planning, stage management and production. She has played a leadership role in the design, planning and implementation events such as Caribana, the African Heritage Music Festival (New Orleans), The African Canadian Achievement Awards and produced 2 Fashion shows "Cuttin Style Caribbean" for the Pan Am Games 2015., and has also developed a certificate program in Event Planning and Event Management at York University. She received the BBPA Woman of Honour; African Canadian Achievement Awards (ACAA) with an Outstanding 20 year Service and Leadership Award; just to name a few and also listed in the Who's Who in Black Canada



Nadine Miller-Props Manager- Nadine has been associated with over 50 + public productions, working as director, producer, and gofer when required to get the tasks done. A person not afraid to get her hands dirty, and has worked in all areas of productions and therefore knows the ins and outs of theatre production from all aspects of a production. Nadine when not volunteering with Heritage is the Producer/Director of Pat Francis Ministries (PFM) television production, shown worldwide and on CTS.



Message from A Founding Member

Valerie Laylor- As one of the Founding Members remaining in the Heritage Singers, I continue to feel very excited and truly blessed to still be an active member in the group after 40 years.

The journey has truly been exciting and rewarding. I can still vividly remember the first day I met with Founder, Musical Director, Ms. Grace Carter-Henry Lyons, and the excitement she exuded at the thought of having a Caribbean Folk singing group in Toronto, Canada.

Today we are celebrating 40 years, reflecting on this journey, and having our family, friends and loyal supporters share in this momentous occasion. We are so blessed. We are very proud of this day, and we give God thanks and the glory for leading us on.

I thank Ms. Carter-Henry Lyons for her dedication, leadership and continued vision for this group. She deserves to be lauded for the time, dedication to, and the love she has for continuing the preservation of the culture here in Toronto and the broader community. Our children and grandchildren need to learn it too. Through national and international Folk Festival, the group has had the opportunity to be exposed to other fine cultures. We all are also grateful for this.

Thanks, Grace, for giving me this great opportunity to be part of this 40-year Celebration today. May the group continue on for as many more years as is humanly possible or if God permits. **A big Thank You.**



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There are so many people to thank over the 40 years. To anyone who has supported us, helped us, advertised with us and sponsored us, we are truly grateful. Thanks to everyone who was ever a member of the group, we pray that your time with Heritage Singers Canada brought you joy and lasting memories. For this 40th Anniversary production we'd like to thank the following people:

Air Jamaica (over the years)
 Dr. Alvin Curling (over the years)
 Ballet Creole (under the direction of Patrick Parsons)
 Caribbean Vibrations
 Christ Church, The British Methodist Episcopal Church (Toronto)
 CMJ Live Show & CMJ Entertainment
 Danroy Hunt & Foresight Video
 Delores Lawrence
 Elaine Chin
 Dr. Frederick McIntosh, ENT Surgeon
 G98.7
 Jamaica 55 Committee
 Jamaican Canadian Association (over the years)

Dr. Jean Augustine (over the years)
 Kellie Spence
 Lorna King
 Mary Ann Chambers
 Nicey's Food Mart (over the years)
 PACE Canada
 Pamela Appelt
 Pride News Magazine & Michael Van Cooten
 Share News & Arnold Auguste
 Spice Island Performers (under the direction of Gailene Prime-Ramsay)
 St. Clair Baptist Church
 St. Thomas Healthcare Organization (over the years)
 Sylvia Hudson
 The Travel Kiosk

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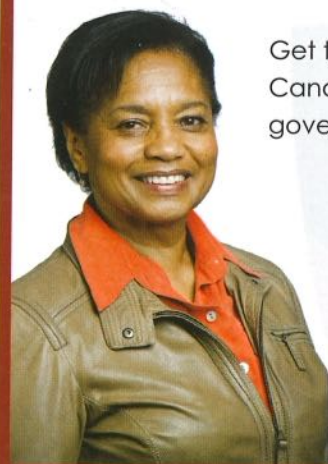
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 Cherita Campbell
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 Larry Sangster

Marcia Belgrade
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 Shellon Baptiste
 Simone Senior
 Tamara Binger
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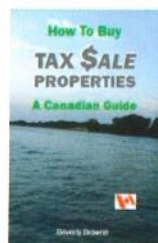
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The Heritage Singers and Heritage Band and their families for all the time and dedication volunteers:

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Beverly Browne, Author

IN MEMORIAM

To the members who have left us, you may be gone but not forgotten.

Austin Davey
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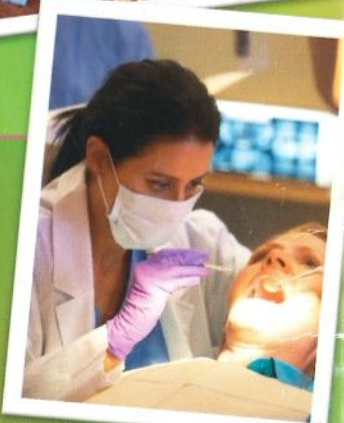


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