



Live Wyya Band, students of Dr. Howard, entertained at the launch.

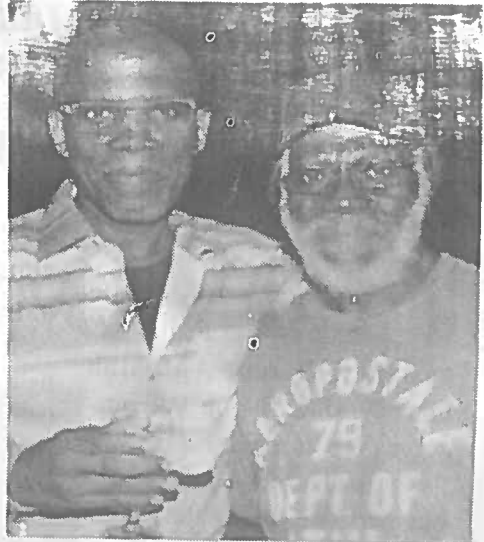


Some of Dr. Howard's students at the University of the Caribbean were in attendance.

The Creative Echo Chamber—

A unique book on Jamaican music

By Julian "Jingles" Reynolds



Dennis poses with his father, Jimmy Solo at the launch.

"The Creative Echo Chamber" is the title of a new and unique book on Jamaican popular music written by ethnomusicologist, Dr. Dennis "Bobby" Howard.

The book is unique as it may be the only book on Jamaica's most valuable cultural offering, music, by a Jamaican academic, who is

praised the author for his scholarship, the data he has brought to his tome and for sharing the experiences with readers.

Dr. Howard, a post-independence child, grew up the son of a well known dance promoter, bar operator, and sound system operator, James "Jimmy Solo" Howard, and the late Cynthia Mae Thompson, described by one of the speakers as "a live wire," in places like Rose Town, in west Kingston and Rockfort in east Kingston, always immersed in the burgeoning Jamaican Reggae music.

While a student at Kingston College, he was permitted to select for his father's sound system **Shanghai Solophonic**, at his father's base of operation, **Jazz Hut** on Orange Street. He grew up around legendary entertainers such as **Ken Boothe**, "Daddy" **U Roy**, **Stranger Cole**, **Gregory Isaacs**, and the music industry pioneers, **Clement "Coxsone/Downbeat" Dodd** of **Studio One Records** and **Arthur "Duke" Reid** whose world renowned **Treasure Isle Recording Studio** was only a

block away from where young Howard was living in west Kingston.



The Creative Echo Chamber had its origin as the research work done by Dr. Howard between 2005 and 2010, for his doctoral thesis at the University of the West Indies, with additional work done since then in preparing it for publication by local publisher, **Ian Randle Press**.

Foreword

It opens with an exceptional and intriguing foreword from the great **Lee "The Upsetter/Scratch" Perry**, arguably the most influential personality in modern Jamaican music, namely reggae and dub music.

The book covers the period from the 1950s to the present, with much focus on the technical, creative, managerial and intellectual property rights that have impacted the Jamaican music industry.

The author brings to this impressive body of work some three decades of experience working in the Jamaican entertainment industry as radio station technical operator, radio disc-jockey, record producer, television producer,

publicist, artiste manager and programme director for the pioneering **IRIE-FM** radio station.

The depth, breadth, exclusive and engaging references make this book a must-read for those around the world who are intrigued by and are lovers of Jamaican popular music culture. But what sets this book apart is that it is written by someone who was born in, bred and inspired by, the extraordinary social and cultural dynamics of Kingston, Jamaica.

Jamaica can stand up and be proud of this achievement.



Lee Perry

a product of the socio-economic conditions and geographic space of West Kingston, from which much of the music evolved.

At its recent launch on the lawn of Dr. Howard's office in Eastwood Park Gardens, now described as "music city," I was among several prominent speakers with ties to Jamaica's culture, namely **Junior Lincoln**, **Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niah**, **Clyde McKenzie** and **Dr. Carolyn Cooper**, who

Baba Brooks awarded

Legendary trumpeter **Oswald "Baba" Brooks**, who led his own band in the 1950s and partnered with early Ska figures like the **Skatalites**, **Stranger Cole**, **Justin Hinds** and **Owen Gray** in the 1960s, was posthumously awarded for his contribution to the development of Jamaica's music at **Tributes to the Greats 19** at Curphey Place on Saturday, July 30. Brooks' son, **Kenneth**, received the Award on behalf of his father.

Another top trumpeter of that era, **Raymond Harper**, also got a posthumous Award.

Bernard Collins of the **Abyssinians**, songwriter **Anthony "Sangie" Davis**, **Black Prince** sound system operator, **George Ximines** and drummer **Hector "Bunny" Williams** were also honoured by the **Kingsley Goodison, Tributes to the Greats** outfit.

Live music was provided by the **Rhythm Masters Band**.



Baba Brooks

Maverley's **Kenneth Brooks**, son of **Baba Brooks**, received the Award on behalf of his father and told **The News** that he was particularly proud to see that after all these years, the valuable work of his father had been recognised. He thanked **Goodison** and his team for keeping the history of the music at the forefront of the island's musical development.