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Anything Reggae Nationally or Internationally

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



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## SOUPERLICIOUS SERVES COMMUNITY IN LITTLE JAMAICA

By Staff Writer | January 17, 2025 | Toronto, Ontario

Souperlicious has officially opened its newest location at 1586 Eglinton Avenue West, bringing vibrant Caribbean flavour and renewed optimism to the heart of Toronto's Little Jamaica.

Owned by Andrew "Jaydahmann" Cox, the restaurant launches during on-going LRT construction along Eglinton Avenue — a period that has challenged many local businesses. Rather than waiting for construction to conclude, Cox chose to invest now, demonstrating confidence in the neighborhood's resilience and long-term future.

**"This is more than food. It's about creating a place where people feel proud, connected, and at home."**

Known for hearty Caribbean soups and porridges — from rich red pea soup to creamy cornmeal porridge — Souperlicious delivers warmth, culture, and comfort in every bowl. The new location aims to restore foot traffic, create employment opportunities, and strengthen community ties along this historic corridor.

### Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

With its doors now open, Souperlicious is serving more than sustenance — it is serving culture, pride, and renewed community spirit in Little Jamaica.



Andrew  
'Jaydahmann'  
Cox



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**"It's Not What You Can Do  
For Reggaeexclusive...  
It's What Reggaeexclusive  
Can Do For You"**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ReggaeXclusive's 88th Issue Volume 24 Issue 1

## MUSIC

Artist Updates  
Charts & Listings  
New Voice in Reggae  
Singers & Deejays  
Gospel Reggae  
Band / Group / Sound  
Words On Dub

## SPOTLIGHT

ReggaeXclusive Chat  
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Labels, Producers  
Promoters, Engineers  
Artist Watch  
Int'l Artist Spotlight  
ReggaeX Salute  
Foundation Artist

## NEWS

Views  
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## REGGAEXCLUSIVE CHATS WITH MIZTRIZZ

### For the people who don't know Miztrizz, give them some background information on your musical journey

As an artist, Miztrizz has been creating music since her early childhood. She has dabbled in the genres of R&B and reggae to create the fusion sound that defines as her current calling. Becoming a professional artist has enabled her

to create what she believes is a type of music that can be inspiring to many listeners.

### Tell us what has been going on with your EP Rain Szn since its release

Currently the EP Rain SZN since its release has been in rotation around the globe. All energy is being put into the promotion and sharing of the work to the masses specifically on Spotify and YouTube.

### Did you shoot any music videos of any of the songs on the 'Rain Szn' EP?

At this time the only song that has been made into a music video is "Snapshot" featuring Empress Divine. There are plans to include other songs as music videos on the EP as well such as "Wine N' jiggle"

### Last time we spoke you mentioned recording a new full-length album, what has been going on with that project

An album is a dream project in the works with the aspirations to release a full album in the year end. Currently plans are being put together with producers to be part of the album, and collaborations are in discussion.

### Will this new album include any collabora- tion with other artists?

There have been talks to include collaborations with Afrobeats artists, as well as some reggae favourites. So as to not spoil the trailer that is what's on the agenda.

### How much time have you allotted to get- ting this new album finished and re- leased?

The album doesn't have any pre-allotted finishing time, however, the majority of it will be in production with Wai Fusion and some other notable producers.

### Tell us what the inspiration was behind writing the song 'Snapshot'

This song was a single that is meant to support the whole element of queen energy, positivity, and to be proud of the upliftment of fellow sistrens.

### What was it like working with Empress Di-

### vine throughout the whole project?

Working with Empress Divine was a very key element to the project, as I thought she was a very strong female figure with exemplary vocal skills. I found her to be a perfect match for the feminine energy I was seeking for the project. Although the song was written before her feature addition, much thought was put into collaborating on the music video and it was done to bring forth an unmatched synergy.

### Who produced 'Snapshot', where did you voice the track and how did you obtain the riddim?

The official mastered song was produced by Smokeshop records, and was voiced from the main song which was recorded in my home studio. And the song was written by me initially. After sometime, the idea developed that the song needed another female on the hook that was vocally strong and of high esteem. So naturally Empress Divine was my first choice.

### We know you have been busy performing and promoting your music, tell us about you journey during the fall and winter months

I feel its very important to always remain active in music despite the change in season. So during the winter months I do a lot of recording, local shows and other related showcases that enables me to connect with my audience, regardless of the change in weather.

### Any upcoming performances within On- tario and across Canada

I am currently drafted on numerous promotions and showcases through now and the end of spring. Majority of them are taking place around the GTA area.

### Please add anything that you want the people across the world to know about Miztrizz and her musical journey

I am currently in the position of expanding my Muzic reach into different regions of the world, with hopes to expand more into the UK and Africa. I invite everyone to check in on my website and YouTube page to ensure that they are following, liking and sharing my catalog.

See Pg 9

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (JAMAICA)



### SLY DUNBAR

Lowell Fillmore 'Sly' Dunbar, drummer extraordinaire and co-founder of the revolutionary Taxi Records label, passed away peacefully at his home in Kingston Jamaica. Described as a pioneer whose sticks helped to shape the soundtrack of the 20th and 21st centuries, he has left behind a legacy that transcends Jamaica's shores.

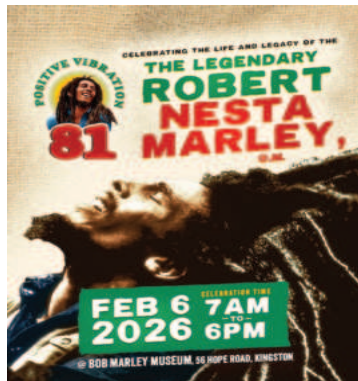
"As one half of Sly & Robbie, Sly helped shape the sound of reggae and Jamaican music for generations. His extraordinary talent, innovation, and lasting contributions will never be forgotten... For over four decades Sly Dunbar was inseparable from bassist Robbie Shakespeare, forming the legendary "Riddim Twins". Their partnership was more than a professional collaboration; it was a musical team that served as the backbone for thousands of recordings and, through their label,

Dunbar's dedication was recognized with Jamaica's highest honors. His contributions continued to garner international academic acclaim late into his life. Jamaica's music fraternity has lost a legendary drummer.



### BLACK UHURU

Black Uhuru will be performing in the US for two weeks from February 19th to March 7th. Places that they will perform include California, Hawaii, Washington and Oregon. They will be performing again in the US in June and July.



### BOB MARLEY EARTHSTRONG CELEBRATION

Bob Marley's 81st "Earthstrong" (birthday) was celebrated on Friday February 6, 2026, with the theme "Positive Vibration" featuring a main celebration at the Bob Marley Museum, 56 Hope Road in Kingston, Jamaica, from 7 am. to 6 pm.. Events included live performances, community support initiatives, and global streaming via Tuff Gong Radio.



### WICKIE WACKIE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Wickie Wackie Music Festival, Jamaica's only Reggae Festival with beach camping. This event will take place at 8 Mile Bull Bay, Jamaica on February 12th to 14th 2026. Join us and be a part of Jamaica's vibrant recovery. A lot of artists, prizes and surprises: Yoga, Binghi, Paint and Sip, Surprise sounds.



### ISLAND MUSIC CONFERENCE

Island Music Conference (IMC), which returns for the fourth time to Jamaica's vibrant capital Kingston. Founded by superstar Shaggy, renowned music manager and powerhouse behind some of Jamaica's greatest entertainers, Sharon Burke and PR and event manager Judith Bodley, the IMC is a four-day conference dedicated to artists, DJs, songwriters, managers, producers, beatmakers, publicists, and everyone who passionately supports and shapes Jamaican music with creativity and commitment.

From February 25 to 28, the conference will take place primarily at the Courtleigh Auditorium in Kingston, featuring more than 15 panels and workshops. Under the inspiring theme "Music Is the Unifying Force", the IMC offers industry professionals a unique space to connect, exchange ideas, empower one another, address challenges, and develop solutions – always guided by the spirit that we are stronger together.



### LOST IN TIME FESTIVAL

Immerse yourself in a two-day

journey where music and culture unfold over time, culminating in powerful live performances. The Lost in Time Festival is a two-day music and cultural gathering set in Hope Gardens Kingston, Jamaica on February 28th to March 1st 2026. Designed as a journey rather than a single moment, this is designed to unfold gradually, inviting you to move through music, curated spaces, installations and food offerings at your own pace.

Blending sound, environment, and human connection, Lost in Time creates space for discovery, movement, and shared experience. Each day builds organically, culminating in powerful live performances that leave a lasting impression long after the final set. Rooted in intention and creative expression, the festival invites audiences to slow down, explore, and experience music and culture in a way that feels present, layered, and deeply felt.



### TRENCH TOWN CULTURAL FEST

The Trench Town Culture Fest took place on February 4th, 2026. Hosted by New Age Rockers and the Trench Town Culture Yard, it features live performers Earle "Chinna" Smith, Lutan Fiyah, Erup, Kahpun, Queen Iminah, Dahvid Siur, and Ras-I, alongside numerous others.

The event was held at Vin Lawrence Park, located on 1st Street in Trench Town. Gates opened at 3 pm, with the main show commencing at 6 pm. To ensure a seamless musical experience, the festival also featured a dedicated roster of selectors and disc jockeys, including Icebox, DJ Natty of King Harar Sound, DJ Steamaz, DJ Brixx and Satta Sound.

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Written by Elaine Shepherd

## The Sisterhood Project

Toronto, Canada  
February 5th, 2026.

Sisterhood in the music industry, especially within reggae, has not always come easily. Though we are witnessing a powerful elevation and coming together of women in these times, the past offered only rare moments of true creative and collective unity. The male dominated world and the pressures put on women in general...let alone in the spotlight have notoriously created an environment where women tend to lose sight of their own light, diminish their confidence and thus throw them into competition with each other. This is not the true nature of a woman. Women in their natural environment tend to gravitate towards each other in community for the upliftment of all those around them. The sisterhood project was the attempt to bring women back to their roots through a collaborative process - and needless to say this "experiment" so to speak, worked! And very successfully at that

The Sisterhood Project piloted by Canadian Reggae Ambassador Carrie Mullings who co-produced/composed the riddim alongside Senyama Semafumu aka DJ Evo-Z features Ammoye, Journey Star, Elaine Shepherd, Nana McLean, Imani King, Blk Orchid and Donna Makeda. Eight strong women of different backgrounds, sounds, styles, stories and vocal artistry sharing and showcasing the same vision through this timeless creation. It has been a long time coming, and with over seven years in the making and the embodiment of patience and the trust in divine timing - The Sisterhood Project, the first official Rebel Vibe Recordz EP has organically and finally made its debut release on January 31st, 2026.

This project is a true testament to what can be created when people

come together in unity, standing in support of each other for the greater good of music and humankind.

"This will be a first of many, says Mullings, and I'm truly honoured to have been a part of the creation process of this project, a life-long dream fulfilled, and bearing witness to these amazing women who shared their talents and energy to make this happen. I am extremely proud of each and every one of them."

Up next on the Rebel Vibe Recordz roster will be the sequel project entitled The Brotherhood Project - release date TBA.

The Sisterhood Project is now available on all streaming platforms.



Cover Art:  
Justin Gray

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## CATCHING UP WITH EMPRISTINE

### What has been going on with Empristine?

I know when we last spoke I stated that I was going to be in the 18th Annual Miss Heritage Canada, in June 2025, but never did I imagine that I would place as second runner up and be Miss Jamaica for Heritage Beyond Borders! At that event, I spoke on bringing my business, Luminosity 77 for Biz Fashion Magazines event 'Movember Charity - Powered In Suits', but I also ended up performing a couple of my songs and hitting the runway with my sisters who also placed, (Miss South Africa - Monique Smith and

Miss Canada - Veronica Deen); I then modeled for 'International Wedding and Fashion Festival of Canada (IWFFC)' featuring the elegant Maria's Bridal Boutique, and the lovely, unique designer Sara Ifeoma, on December 6th, which ended up in the Memoir Atelier Magazine. I then attended an event with paparize and many dignitaries and had the experience of getting pictures done with the International World Press, alongside Suzy Q, Bizfashion Magazine and Neel Nanda, CEO for Miss Heritage Canada, Heritage Beyond Borders.

I then rang in the New Year with performing and was in the fashion show at the Blessing In Disguise Bistro & Pub at an event called 'Santa Chic - A Royal New Years Eve', with Royal Media Group which then gave me the opportunity to be a part of a model competition on January 30th for Royal Media Group at an event called "Crowned"; and on the very next day my sisters and I hit the runway at Galaxy Grand Convention Centre at another event called "Threads of The World", presented by Bina Beauty Lounge and 6ixpm E.S.T. in the Queen segment

Remember when I stated that I would be bringing Luminosity 77 to Museum London for Black History Month? Well, I went to the event, Black History Month Opening Celebration and it was mighty informative and held by the ever gracious London Black Heritage Council which has been an ongoing powerful entity from 1993. It

was such a moving day for me as I have been seeking to connect with Leroy Hibbert and the rest of the committee after I met Heather. A Rennalls (Heather the Historian) at an event her business was featured in. I was also seeking to perform in London for a long time and work with the Reggae music industry of London and more importantly, to have the opportunity to connect everyone with one another so we all can flourish, together! I know I also mentioned last year that I aim to go on tour, well, I am introducing the Canadian Sweetheart Takeover Tour, which premiered on February 13th and featured various independent artists supporting each other's dreams. We aim to perform once a month and Luminosity 77 will be joining us, featured by Toronto- Weekend and Descyara

Some upcoming shows I have are the Canadian Sweetheart Takeover Tour which was held at the Local Lounge in Oshawa on February 13th (ongoing every month at different locations); the Black History Month - Our Story event which will be held on February 21st at the Fusion Lounge in Scarborough, an event promoted by Cut and Clear Music Productions Inc.; also for the BSC (Black Student Club) Fanshawe (Black Youth Connect) located at the Fanshawe College in London on February 27th; then again at another event called the 4th Annual Island Fest London which takes place from July 24 to the 26 and at the African Fashion Week in Toronto In August 2026; stay tuned for many more ventures to come

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**"Alchemize Thy Energy"**



My favourite colour is hot pink. My favourite food is simply fried salt fish with festival and a tiger-malt on the side. I enjoy scary, fantasy, and cartoon movies. My favourite sport is basketball. My favourite fruit and drink is anything dealing with mango. My favourite vegetable is cassava. My favourite genre music is dancehall.

**Remind the people where they can find Miztrizz on Social Media and musical platforms**

Miztrizz can be easily found on her website at [www.miztrizz.com](http://www.miztrizz.com) or you can visit Spotify or visit YouTube for the latest uploaded music.

Thanks for taking the time out to chat with ReggaeXclusive Miztrizz, we wish you huge success now and in the future on your musical journey



**REGGAEXCLUSIVE CHATS WITH MIZTRIZZ**

(From Pg 5)

**Anyone you would like to shout out?**

I'd like to give a shout out to some key players that are enabling my career to prosper thus far, Wai Fusion, and other notable platforms, such as Reggae North music awards, Rebel VibeZ, and DJ Wiz.

**Favourite color, food, genre of movie, sport, drink, fruit, vegetable, genre of music**

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*This work, moves at the Speed of Consciousness, Chatta's vision meets King-Arts precision. Edited by King-Arts on January 12, 2025, his Mastery and Transcendent Vision, forever Alive. The Spirituality in Art never dies, it continues in Eternity to Rise.*

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**And The 2026 Reggae Juno Nominees Are.....**

The 2026 JUNO nominees for the Reggae Recording of the Year feature a mix of established veterans and first-time nominees, highlighted by Naomi Cowan's debut album 'Welcome to Paradise'. The nominees for the 55th annual JUNO awards, announced on January 27, 2026, also include Kirk Diamond with his single "Deh Yah", Exco Levi and Kheilstone with the single "Ready For You", Samora and Ammoye with their single "More Reggae (Funk it Up)", and Jojo You Made That, Yung 2nuff, Erin B, Topman Meeko, One Don & Enzo00 with the "Dagga Riddim Cypre"

The winner will be announced at the JUNO Awards ceremony on March 29, 2026 in Ham8ilton, Ontario

Big up to all reggae and dancehall artistes who submitted applications for this year's Reggae Recording of the Year category and congratulations to all the nominees. Keep your musical fire burning!

**T.Y.G.O.N**

(aka Luv Gad)

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All of the best stories have one thing in common, and you have to go  
against all odds to get there"



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- 7 Wine Up So

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MIRAGE STUDIO

**COMING AT U HARD**

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- 2 OH FATHER
- 3 THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME
- 4 WAKE UP WORLD
- 5 NAH FIGET
- 6 MI NAH GIVE UP
- 7 IN THE HILLS
- 8 POWERS OF THE MOST HIGH
- 9 DON'T LET THEM FOOL YOU
- 10 NO MORE WARS
- 11 STORM IS COMING
- 12 THE MUSICAL AMBASSADOR
- 13 WAR IS OVER
- 14 OH GIRL
- 15 FALL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN

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SONG LIST

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2. BIG DREAM
3. WHO AT THE WORLD
4. TELL ME WHAT'S THE HEARING
5. MY DREAMS COME TRUE
6. BIG DREAM EP OUTRO

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## EMPRESS MINOTT TOURS THE MOTHERLAND

Empress Minott did her video for “Mama Africa” in Gambia and it was released on all platforms on Feb 6th. So far she has performed on the Luv Africa Festival which took place at the Manjai Park in Gambia. After she did that Festival, people started to recognize her on the street. “Mama Africa” is Em-

press Minott’s biggest song over there; children all over are singing it. Her second Festival was at the Reggae Abene Festival in Senegal. “In all my years of doing shows, I have never seen so many people rush backstage to meet and take pictures with me. That experience was amazing. Both Countries are big on Reggae Music and they genuinely show their love and support”, said Empress Minott

In between Festivals, Empress Minott made appearances to the Reggae Clubs; she performed at the Reemah Live in “Motherland” with a very good Gambian Reggae Artist called Revelation Fyah and was very well received. She also performed at a place called Ali Baba Gardens in a place called Senegambia. Aside from the music tour, Empress Minott also took a tour across the country and is giving back to children in different villages via E M Foundation. She has done many Radio interviews and one pre-recorded for a TV station and two for YouTube. Among the Radio interviews that stood out for her were with Capital FM and with Dj Spytal on Choice FM.



## TASHA T RELEASES NEW ANTHEM FROM UPCOMING STUDIO ALBUM ‘ONE WORLD’

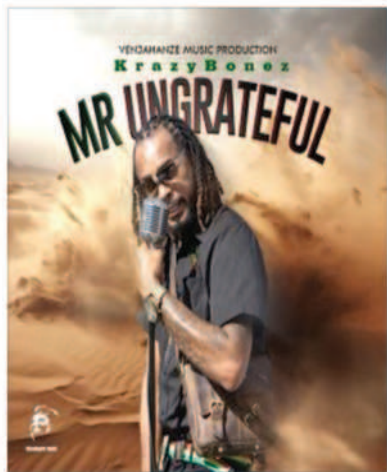
Toronto, Canada — Reggae artist Tasha T released her new single “Ten Foot Wall” on February 6, produced by RasVibe Records Inc. and Is-

landyard Productions. The song is a powerful reflection of her personal and musical journey and serves as the lead single from her upcoming album, ‘One World’.

“Ten Foot Wall” speaks to perseverance through adversity, reminding listeners that no obstacle is greater than faith. The song carries a clear message: no matter how high the wall, God’s blessings surround his people forever. Delivered through soulful vocals and rootsy reggae rhythms, the track blends spiritual conviction with lived experiences.

More than a song, “Ten Foot Wall” is a testimony—one of endurance, gratitude, and divine covering. It sets the tone for One World, an album grounded in unity, purpose, and unwavering belief. For press inquiries, interviews, or bookings, please contact: RasVibeRecords@gmail.com

For bookings, Interviews, Radio Jingles, Dubplates: Contact: (416) 414-9314; Website: www.tashatmusic.com

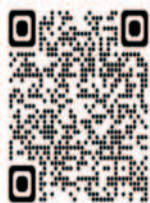


## KRAZYBONEZ IS ON A MUSICAL WAR MISSION

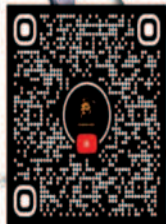
Recent top music releases for early 2026 from KrazyBonez (Garfield Scarlett) include single “Mr Ungrateful” about morally corrupt people. Followed by “Ghetto System” which talks about segregation of specific minority groups into isolated neighborhoods worldwide and involuntary poverty; all written and produced by Venjahanze music production. Another notable release to come is a single entitled “War Mission”.



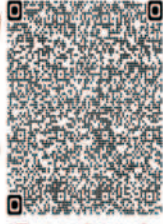
KrazyBonez strings together phrases and melodies, almost like a stream of consciousness put to a beat. KrazyBonez is an experienced producer transitioning into singing and chanting and will have a unique advantage in creating high quality self-produced music. To elevate and enlighten the listener spirit sending healing frequencies is what KrazyBonez has set out to do with his conscious songs. Jah is in control, lock into KrazyBonez music, selah”



TikTok



YouTube



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## 2025 HALFWAY THROUGH THE DECADE

By A. Smith

What a year it has been once again we have seen some catastrophic climatic changes. The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) which was held at the end of the year in Belém, Brazil which is the gateway to the Amazon River. As always reggae artists have encapsulated this in a song by Keke I & Bushman – Preserve Nature and Nuwair Music brought us “Earth is Crying”.

It has been a year where we saw continued war in Ukraine which has been captured in a song by Barry Macka called “No More War”; Mishka music social media performance captured the sentiment of all the conflicts around the world on International Reggae Day, whose 2025 theme was “One Love, One Voice, One Day”. While Chezidek’s Sudan reminds us that they have been experiencing the worst famine and displacement in our time.

At this point we must acknowledge

those upon whose shoulders we stand, firmly.

The music industry and for the purpose of this publication reggae artists that have ascended this year are: Naâman French reggae singer who brought you albums such as Rays of Resistance, Deep Rockers and the extended version of Temple Road which was released last year. Cocoa Tea who needs no introduction; Max Romeo, the roots reggae singer, songwriter who gave us hits like One Step Forward and No Peace, he was also backing vocalist on the Rolling Stones’ album Emotional Rescue (1980); in recent years he was on a few songs with 2 of his children Xana and Azizzi while “Chase the Devil” was sampled by Jayz; Singer, Junior Byles; one of his most popular albums was “Beat Down Babylon. Vivian Jones -Jamaican-born British reggae singer who was one of the pioneers in the Lovers Rock evolution of this genre. James Chambers better known to us as Jimmy Cliff who managed to reach around the globe with the 1972 movie -The Harder They Come along with a song of the same name and the notable audience pleaser “Many Rivers to Cross”. Jimmy Cliff was also a Grammy Award winner who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Owen Gray who was credited as Jamaica’s first home-grown singing star broke into the UK market with his first single, but we think what would surprise you more is his 1970 song “Apollo 12” which was well liked by those in the skinhead culture. As a testament to this genre George Veikoso singer, songwriter, musician, producer and actor better known to us as “Fiji” was a voice for his people

and has solidified a legacy still to be realized.

Allan “Skill” Cole footballer, friend and songwriter for Bob Marley, another giant of the global community, has joined the ancestors. It is our belief that one of the reasons Bob Marley’s music has stood the test of time is partially due to his association with people like Mr. Cole and their unrelenting support in every facet of life. Next on this year’s list is Determine, probably best known for his hit Kette Drum done in collaboration with dancehall star Beenie Man and to round out this list is guitarist Radcliffe “Dougie” Bryan from The Maytals. A few other names that are known by worldwide audiences are neo-soul artist, Angie Stone; Sly Stone from Sly and the Family Stone; Co-founder of the “Beach Boys” Brian Wilson, and Roberta Flack, who defined an era of R&B music.

Now bringing it home the North American Diaspora Community lost Leroy Gibbons and Jade Faith both singers in their native country and a great contribution to the Canadian Music Scene. A moment of personal privilege, Shekira Ashanti Holt, a person who was never too busy to engage in cordial conversation but more over she was a photographic documentarian that understood the importance of capturing the history and securing it for future generations. She will be missed but hopefully there will be people to follow in her footsteps. Last but not least we have heard the songs, stories and poetic pieces about “Black Wall Street” but it was a lived experience for those in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Viola Fletcher, one of the oldest survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre died last year at the age of 111. However, the title of her book, “Don’t Let Them Bury My

Story” co-authored by Ike Howard is instructive to us all.

So, looking forward this year’s Grammy nominees for Best Reggae Album from 73 submissions are: Mortimer – From Within; Jesse Royal – No Place Like Home both from Easy Star Records; Keznamdi Music Group steps in with Blxxd & Fyah – Keznamdi; Lila Iké - Treasure Self Love (Ineffable Records) and Vybz Kartel – Heart and Soul (Vybz Kartel Muzik/Greedy Lion). Some of the other nominees that we would like to mention are Bad Bunny (who will headline this year’s Super Bowl), Angélique Kidjo, Burna Boy, Ayra Starr, Wizkid, Tyla and many more.

Some other things to look out for in 2026 that are notable anniversaries and celebrations around the globe – 40th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster, 25th Edition of the Winter Olympics where ski mountaineering will be making its debut which will also have first time alpine skiers representing Benin & Guinea-Bissau, it would be negligent not to mention that T & T’s 2-man and 4-man bobsleigh team while Cool Running (Team Jamaica) will also be in competition with 3 bobsleds. Now, later in the summer FIFA World Cup Soccer will be held on the North American Continent between all 3 countries. Canada’s games will be held between Victoria, BC and Toronto, ON time to get those flags ready.

As Canada prepares to celebrate its 159th year as a country, the Byward Market (Ottawa, ON), will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary. The United States of America will commemorate its Semi quincennial i.e. 250th Independence.

See Pg 18

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**ROADBLOCK RADIO  
CEO KACY RANKINE  
SALUTES KEZNAMDI'S  
HISTORIC REGGAE  
GRAMMY WIN**



**N**YC: New York based RoadBlock CEO Kacy "G City" Rankine has joined a chorus of global voices celebrating reggae singer Keznamdi, following his triumph at the recent 68th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles where he captured 'Best Reggae Album' for his acclaimed project 'Blxxd & Fyah'. Rankine stood alongside the Doctor Beenie Man, Lila Iké, and Jamaica's Opposition Leader Mark Golding in congratulating the cultural reggae torchbearer, calling the moment a proud one for Jamaica and the wider diaspora.

"Keznamdi is an extremely talented reggae artist. All of Jamaica is proud of you including the diaspora and reggae fans around the globe. We are proud of your achievement," Rankine said. "And to have won the award on the very day that Reggae Month kicks off in Jamaica and Black History Month here in the USA, is that much more rewarding. Keep the fire burning!"

The win for Keznamdi, who earned the Grammy nod the very first time he was nominated, placed the Jamaican star in elite company on

Grammy night, sharing the spotlight with hip-hop superstar Kendrick Lamar, who became the most decorated rapper in Grammy history. Rankine also extended congratulations to other nominees in the category, Lila Iké, Vybz Kartel, Mortimer, Mavado, Masicka and Jesse Royal, noting that the strength of the category reflected the global impact and continued evolution of reggae music.

As Keznamdi walked the red carpet at the Grammy Awards, moments before being named 'Best Reggae Album' winner, he paused to reflect on the weight of culture, influence, and legacy in an exclusive interview with RoadBlock Radio host Sandy Daley, the only Caribbean media entity approved to cover the event's virtual red carpet.

Asked about his role in helping to guide reggae music into its next chapter, Keznamdi answered candidly, "Yeah, man, music is a responsibility. Influence is a responsibility naturally," he said. "I'm in a very specific place in my life where I'm young enough to still relate to the younger generation, but old enough to have the wisdom to share the moments and share this music and carry the culture forward. So yeah, man, it's definitely a responsibility that we hold at the highest regard." he shared.

Keznamdi's Grammy success for his album 'Blxxd & Fyah' further cements his role as a modern cultural ambassador for the genre. His career includes collaborations with Chronixx, Tory Lanez, A-Trak, and Rapsody, while remaining firmly rooted in the traditions passed down through his family lineage.



**RASTAMAN  
VIBRATIONS REVIEW**

By Felix Nadeau

**R**eleased in 1976, Rastaman Vibrations continued the classic Bob Marley & The Wailers period.

Coming off the heels of three seminal albums which started the bands most cherished period, that being Catch a Fire, Burnin', and Natty Dread, Rastaman Vibrations retains the quality captured in the group's more matured records. The themes touched on the album will be familiar for those who know the very basics of Bob Marley's music- Rastafarianism, fighting political abuse, overcoming racism, peace & love, etc. However common the subject matters may be in their music, it will be evident that the band's artistry has a seemingly

unique ability to make the typical sound endlessly fresh.

The album's strongest songs (which are most of them) expand much of the group's previous habits of singing about hate and chaos while also reminding its listenership of the timeless virtues of openness and patience. Tracks like Crazy Baldheads and Rat Race are indeed resistance songs made to highlight the absurd and unjust in the world, while the flip side is also discussed in songs like Positive Vibrations and Roots, Rock, Reggae, singles made to encourage the spirit and the love of music.

It's also worth mentioning some deeper cuts seldom discussed, Johnny Was a song about remembering the warmth of the dearly departed, Cry to Me a funky heartbreak song worth returning to for those who haven't in a while; along with other more bold tracks coming on the second half of the record, like War, a song about anti-racism. Here's to remembering this great work 50 years later.



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## THE COST OF A SMILE

By: Desmond Maragh

**W**hat is the cost of a smile? How much do you think a smile is worth? How much is your smile worth? Have you ever heard any of these questions before? If someone was to look you deep in your eyes and sincerely ask you this question, would you be dumb struck or would you have an answer on the tip of your tongue? Would you be able to answer without going into deep thoughts? When was the last time you looked at yourself in the mirror and genuinely smiled with yourself? Let me ask you this before we go a little more in depth with these questions. How many times have you laughed at yourself or just laughed out loud when something happens where the so-called norm is to curse at it or someone and get mad?

For the past few days I have made

so many people that I have met or spoken to before smile or laugh and it's not that we were in a room setting where you were forced to say something. They were all people that I bumped into whilst in the stores and they didn't just smile or laugh, we kicked up a short conversation. Also, in more than half the occasions I could have said something a little strong or said nothing at all but somehow I chose to make that choice at the moment and the only way it happened was because I did make that choice to smile first.

I was taught a while ago that you can make nine out of ten friends if when meeting them for the first time, you look them directly in their eyes, smile and say hi. Yes we know some are going to reject us, some are going to wonder what do you want or what is it you are selling and some of those people doesn't matter at all. Sounds harsh? Now, why do you think so? If you were picking someone to be on a board to represent you or your brand, would you pick any of them?

I want you to remember this and if you never get anything out of what I'm saying, I want you to remember just this one thing I'm going to say right now. Forget about all I said before about smiling and saying hi to others you haven't met before. I just want you to carve this into your memory and repeat it to yourself a few times because if

you have ever searched to find something to help you grow and become the person you really want to be, it's hidden in this one statement, and the statement is, "You get out of life what you do, you get out of life what you are". Thinking about it now, I think I should write it again and say it boldly so you really know that I'm very serious about this statement. I'm not even going to repeat it but I'm going to add a little more to it and probably I should write it in all caps and start the next paragraph with it. I also think it deserves the right to be in its own paragraph.

**"YOU DON'T GET OUT OF LIFE WHAT YOU DO; YOU GET OUT OF LIFE WHAT YOU ARE, BECAUSE WHAT YOU ARE DETERMINES WHAT YOU DO".**

Please read it again and when you have finished reading this article, go back and read it again. How many times have you said you are shy, I don't like people, people can't be trusted, no one likes me, I am always rejected? Have you ever thought that you get exactly what you say and the energy you put out? Have you ever thought you attract the things you say and think about? Starting now, I want you to challenge yourself to start doing small changes. Don't just try to make that huge change we all make at the beginning of every year when we set goals to change and in a few short weeks it withers away and we fall short and then

fall into the same trap of beating ourselves up. Start by making small changes daily. You would surprise yourself of who you can become in a very short time by just changing the way you talk to yourself and don't tell me you don't talk to yourself. Now that deserves a small laugh. We all talk to ourselves and it is our choice of what we say when we do and maybe because I say it now, you are going to notice it the next time you catch yourself beating on the person again, who God has made no mistakes when He created them and yes, that's you.

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always had" and with that I probably should end it here and continue on it the next time. I think I have given you a bit of homework to do until next time and as I always say, feel free to reach out if you ever need to chat for a couple minutes. I hope you realize how special you are and how amazing you have been created. Stop letting the small stuff get in your way because 95% of the things we worry about never happens. Stay blessed and remember, "Give yourself the first smile". Nuff Luv





## 2025 HALFWAY THROUGH THE DECADE

By A. Smith  
From Pg 15

Some other festivals/events that have caught our attention that you should be looking forward to are: Igloofest (Edmonton, Quebec City, Gatineau, Montreal); SunFest (BC) Dauphin's Countryfest (NB); still in its infancy the 5th Annual Rhythm Culture Festival in NRC,

MusicFest Canada (Niagara Falls); and numerous other community oriented festivals/events that strive to showcase the best of Canada's Multifaceted, Multicultural Society.

So, "World Citizen" by Irie Souljah featuring Kabaka Pyramid, from the Grammy nominated Lila Ike "All Over the World" featuring Protoje, Donna Makeda and Shakky Allyene's "We Shall Not Be Moved" and Exco Levi's "Born To Be Free" from the album of the same name are some of the songs that bring home the message of Our Country, Our World, Our Story!



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (JA)

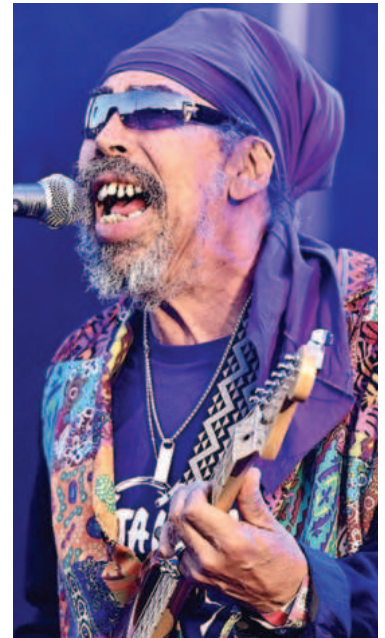
From Pg: 6

### STEPHEN "CAT" COORE

Legendary Jamaican musician Stephen 'Cat' Coore died suddenly leaving family, friends and fans across the world in mourning. Coore, for more than 50 years, been guitarist and cellist for iconic reggae band Third World.

Coore was a founding member and musical director of Third World, whose pioneering fusion of reggae, soul, funk, pop, and rock helped shape the reggae-fusion sound and propel Jamaican music on to the global stage. Under his musical leadership, Third World achieved international acclaim with enduring classics such as "Now That We've Found Love", "96 Degrees in the Shade", and "Try Jah Love", becoming one of Jamaica's longest-running and most successful bands.

Celebrated for his exceptional musicianship, compositional brilliance, and deep musical knowledge, Coore was widely regarded as a



cultural ambassador who elevated reggae music and inspired generations of artists at home and abroad. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Jamaican culture and the creative arts, Coore was awarded membership in the Order of Distinction (OD) by the Government of Jamaica, honoring his decades of service to music and his role in promoting Jamaica's cultural legacy worldwide.



## JULION'S VIEWS

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### 2025 - 2026 REFLECTIONS

Today's piece is a fairly eclectic view of thoughts and opinions on reggae runnings in Toronto, Canada as well as globally, as we move forward into 2026

Seeking that vibe in the city of Toronto of dance, live performance including acoustic, open mic, poetry reading, good vibes, loving energy and respect

Where is that spot?

Yes, I come from a time where, in Toronto, this occurred in several bars, clubs, and several nights per week

Music, Dance, Humans vibing together

Yes, I'm doing something about that with the "Dance & Groove" sessions yet I do encourage more of this in the city at other venues

Another vibe that comes to mind, is movie nights at KOLORS Barbershop on Queen Street West where movies like Rockers and other iconic Afrocentric film, along with discussion and dancing happen on a monthly basis

Let us love and dance more during this time of global political chaos, calming the spirit within and sharing said love with other members of the city, country and global village

The ending of an era, as the remnants of the generation of reggae music move on

Puggy Simeon  
DB Hawkes  
Allan Skill Cole  
Jimmy Cliff  
Stephen Cat Coore  
Sly Dunbar

These brothers and more, reuniting with the ancestors, spotlight the changing of an era of reggae music that I have grown in for most of my life. No sadness. Just a profound sense of the changing of the guard that is inevitable in life and a greater reflection of the foundation that these amazing souls have built in this mansion of reggae music, to be proud of for the generations to come. We call their names as we honor them

Juno Awards in the reggae category 2025 are announced, and though there have been changes to the selection process personnel over the past couple of years, the very same concerns remain

As most know, for my part, it is my opinion that these awards should

be given less focus by the reggae community at large based on bigotry, racism and bias over the years, yet I cannot blame those who apply for and seek nomination, as careers can benefit from said nominations or even better yet, securing a win. There is greater access to local and international shows, grant funding as well as notoriety and media presence for the artists that participate. More resources are available to those who are a part of the system

Yet in 2026, the selection process is still considered by some, as ill-informed, biased, and even labeled as corrupt by some of those who submitted and did not earn a nomination. Sour grapes? Very possible

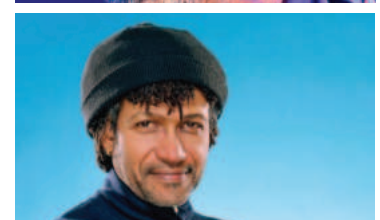
As I reminded an artist friend recently, we in the music industry are a part of a very corrupt global music culture and the Juno Awards are another reflection of this reality

Applying and not receiving a nomination, though disappointing, is a part of any process in a competitive environment, and because you believe, as an artist, that your music is top shelf, it may not resonate with the selection committee nor even a fan base who do not buy your records, songs, album, nor music

Because you apply and do not get a nod, it is a part of life. Grow up. Accept your lumps and continue to create great music. It should be about the music and not about a pat on the back nor award show nominations. As usual, I say congratulations to the artists who achieved a nomination this year and I do hope that great

things happen from that inclusion in this year's awards

Thank you once again ReggaeXclusive for giving I man an outlet to vent



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**"GOOD TO GO"**



**BELINDA BRADY  
RELEASES "RISE UP"  
A CHARITY ANTHEM  
FOR HURRICANE  
MELISSA VICTIMS**

**T**wo-Time JUNO Nominee Channels Jamaican Resilience into Powerful Reggae Single Benefiting Food for the Poor Jamaica

Toronto-based reggae, pop, soul, and jazz artist Belinda Brady releases "Rise Up" out now, through Slammin' Media and Believe Distribution - a stirring anthem of hope and unity born from the devastation of Hurricane Melissa.

Written and composed by Brady alongside her husband, Grammy-nominated and JUNO Award-winning producer Eddie Bullen, the single transforms tragedy into collective strength, with all proceeds supporting Food for the Poor Jamaica to provide critical aid to communities rebuilding across western Jamaica. This is music with purpose: an act of

solidarity that honours Jamaica's national motto, "Out of Many, One People," while demanding action in the face of disaster.

The two-time JUNO Award nominee brings decades of professional artistry to "Rise Up," drawing on her Kingston, Jamaica roots and her career performing alongside internationally renowned artists including Shaggy, Julian Marley, and Soca star Denyse Plummer. Brady, who was honoured as one of Canada's 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women in 2018 and served as music ambassador for UN Women Canada, has long understood music's power to galvanise change. "Come together, let our hearts unite / Angels fly from around the world / Lifting spirits high, relieving our sorrows / So we can be strong," she sings, her voice rising with conviction over Bullen's masterful reggae production. These are not merely lyrics - they are a call to collective action, a refusal to let catastrophe define a community's future.

What makes "Rise Up" particularly resonant is its unflinching acknowledgement of Hurricane Melissa's human toll. Brady addresses the crisis directly: "Hey, little girl, don't you cry / You've lost your shoes / Washed away in muddy waters / Hey, little boy, you've lost your home / Now everything's changed." The verses chronicle real loss—children displaced, homes destroyed, lives upended—before building toward the song's defiant chorus. "We will rise, we will rise, we will rise," Brady repeats, her vocals layered with backing harmonies with

thousands of voices joining in solidarity

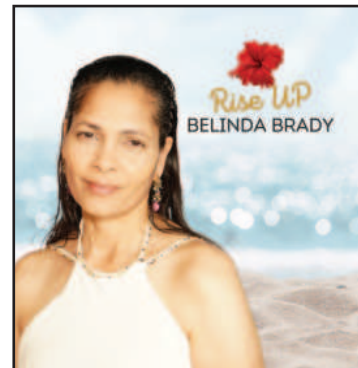
Hurricane Melissa ravaged western Jamaica with catastrophic force, destroying infrastructure, displacing families, and wiping out livelihoods built over generations. Brady's lyric "A mother's cry, losing all hope / Forty years have gone / All her blood, sweat, and tears" captures the cruelty of such disasters - how decades of work can vanish overnight. Yet the song refuses despair. Instead, it honours the resilience embedded in Jamaican culture, the same spirit that inspired Brady's father, Carl Brady, one of the original members of the iconic Byron Lee and the Dragonaires, to pursue music as a vehicle for joy and community connection. This is reggae in its truest form: music that speaks truth whilst lifting spirits, that protests injustice whilst celebrating collective strength.

Brady's track record demonstrates her commitment to using artistry for social good. Her collaboration with producer Leroy 'Artist' Brown and the legendary Sly Dunbar on the smash hit "Dance With Me" showcased her ability to merge infectious rhythms with substance. Her designation as a UN Women honouree and years of service as their music ambassador reflect her understanding that platform demands responsibility. "Rise Up" represents the culmination of this philosophy - a single that delivers musically while serving a concrete humanitarian purpose. Brady, who has steadily built momentum with 15,000+ streams and 90,000+ video views to date,

positions "Rise Up" as both artistic statement and humanitarian intervention. For journalists seeking stories that transcend entertainment - where music becomes tool for tangible change - this release offers rare substance. Every stream, every download, every share translates directly into support for Jamaican families rebuilding their lives.

As Hurricane Melissa's aftermath continues to unfold, "Rise Up" stands as testament to what art can accomplish when purpose and craft converge. Belinda Brady has created more than a charity single; she has crafted an anthem that honours those affected whilst mobilising global support. "Out of many, we are one," she sings, invoking Jamaica's motto not as nostalgic sentiment but as present-day imperative. In an era when natural disasters increasingly devastate vulnerable communities, "Rise Up" offers both mirror and roadmap—reflecting present crisis whilst charting a path toward collective recovery. This is music that matters, released at precisely the moment it's needed most.

For more information, please contact: Eric Alper: Publicist, Music Commentator, Shameless Idealist: 647-971-3742



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## RADIO WAVES OR RADIO KAOS

By: Brian Kotler

When I was a youth, everyone wanted to be a DJ or Radio DJ! And back in the day (before internet) you had to be good, dedicated, invest in yourself and lucky.

Now thanks to the internet, anyone can be a DJ, can have a show or program and even operate their own "radio station". But that all still comes with "responsibility". While

you may be free to play, do or talk about anything; as long as it's legal and moral. You are free to do "talk radio" or play any genre of music or noise. Now, it doesn't have to be commercial (make money), it can be for an audience of one or an audience of a million.

Now what annoys me (and there always is something lol), is that when people mis-represent and take advantage of something good. Now remember "Commercial Radio" must remain loyal to their listeners and people who pay for commercials. "Community Radio" is about being loyal to the community. As I can't speak much on Community Radio in Toronto, here in Montreal, it's a joke. Many people, who have radio programs (on FM or internet) on the "community" platform, seem to just play for themselves, their clique or for spite. And most "things" on the internet just remind me of the wild, wild, west!

I know an individual who literally bragged how they are a "big time DJ" just to win favor with some girls. And then some that can't

even read a flyer without making a few dozen mistakes. Or even some who only play international hits over local / home grown music, unless it's a friend of theirs. Or even some who shamelessly over promote events that they are involved in, while barely mentioning the other events happening. Then some actually do have good intentions, but over the course of their show, they get mentally unable (or unstable LOL) to follow through with their plans. Plus, the ones who don't want to let go, and will probably be buried with the mic in their hand.

Then we have the good ones, and yes! They still exist! Kudos to the radio people who understand the honor and privilege it is to have a program/show. They do what they do for love not for themselves but for the community. Artists, Promoters and music producers should remember the good ones when it comes to fund-raising time and with ads and jingles. We need them as much as they need us. I admire and respect these DJs dearly; they have helped me out more than once.



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## DJ KING ARTHUR

DJ King Arthur has been a fixture in the Montreal reggae scene for over 22 years; in 2004 he began promoting shows and working sound system with Full Spectrum Sound and Selectah MesenJah. In 2009 after a brief apprenticeship with DJ Examine to help further his skills and knowledge of selecting, DJ King Arthur began to do shows solo, and from there continued to grow. As a DJ, King Arthur has found niche providing the Montreal massive with a proper dose of cultural reggae on a monthly basis at various locations and shows in Montreal at clubs and festivals.

DJ King Arthur also has an emphasis on bringing live artists to accompany his sound, and promotes artists alongside him. Playing a mix of culture, dancehall and lovers rock, with even

Soca and R&B included sometimes, the emphasis is mostly culture as the Rasta faith has inspired DJ King Arthur to help bring a uplifting message to the people that is reggae music. As testimony by the thousands of fans that attend every year the Montreal Reggae Festival, reggae music does indeed unite and uplift the people.

# Rebel VibeZ Top 10 Canadian Reggae Chart

Week Of February 1st 2026

<b>1</b>		<b>Feels Like A Movie</b> Celena @celenathis	—
<b>2</b>		<b>Wheel &amp; Come Again</b> Skystar @skystar.music	—
<b>3</b>		<b>Show Us The Way</b> Eddie Bullen Ft. Kandice K*A*S*H*, Tasha T & Mel Dubé	—
<b>4</b>		<b>Get High</b> @miriankatrib @iriesouljahmusic @reggaddiction Mirian Katrib, Irie Souljah & Reggaddiction	—
<b>5</b>		<b>Play It Loud</b> @jaydouglasmusic Jay Douglas & Kairo McLean @kairo_mclean	↑
<b>6</b>		<b>Forevermore</b> Journey Star @jurneystar_	↑
<b>7</b>		<b>Loving You Forever</b> Tesharah @tesharah	↓
<b>8</b>		<b>Student Of A Broken Heart</b> Exco Levi @excolevi	—
<b>9</b>		<b>Ways Of The World</b> Marky Lyrical @marky_lyrical	↑
<b>10</b>		<b>Reggae Music Nice</b> Legato Muzic	NEW



www.rebelvibeZ.ca

email music to info@rebelvibeZ.ca for Chart consideration

# REGGAE RADIO LISTINGS

DJ Spex (Toronto)	Mon-Sun	Flow 98.7FM	
DJ Wiz (Toronto)	Thurs	VIBE 105.5FM	
Carrie Mullings (Toronto)	Sat & Sun	VIBE 105.5FM	
Dibi Hawkes (Toronto)	Sat	CIUT 89.5FM	
Patrick Roots (Toronto)	Sat	CIUT 89.5FM	
King Turbo (Toronto)	Mon	CIUT 89.5FM	
Scabba G (Toronto)	Sat	CIUT 89.5FM	
Durmot Williams (Toronto)	Fri	CIRV 88.9FM	
DJ Cool (Kitchener)	Mon	102.7fm	
DJ Cool (Kitchener)		radiowaterloo.ca	
George Barrett (Vancouver)	Sat	CFRO 100.5FM	
Dudley George (Vancouver)	Sat	CFRO 100.5FM	
Wayne Vernon (Vancouver)		aribbeanexpress.ca	
Ras Bingi Catt (Quinte)		Sat - 91.3FM (91x fm online)	
Unity Radio 1 (Birmingham)		unityradio1.co.uk	
Sting Them Radio (Birmingham)		stingthemradio.co.uk	
Supreme Radio (London)		supremerradio.co.uk	
Bess FM 100 (Jamaica)		DJ Fullclip (Jamaica)	
Ron Nelson (Toronto)		reggaemania.ca	
Stevie Dread		riddimwsm.com/	
Radio 321 Ethiopia		radio321ethiopia	
Delroy G (Toronto)	Sat 10 am - 1 pm	richiebradio.com	<b>The Spin</b>
Delroy G Variety Show		realliferadio247.ca	
Integration with DJ Carlos		richiebradio.com	
On Thursday   Friday   Saturday 7 pm - 10 pm & Sunday 10 pm - 1 am			
realliferadio247.ca			
rootsreggaeRadio.live			
cutandclearradio			
rootsreggaeHub.com			

## MONTREAL RADIO

CKUT 90.3 FM or www.ckut.ca  
 Rootz, Rock, Reggae Show - Monday 1am to 4am  
 Full Circle Show - Wednesday 4am to 7am  
 Positive VibeZ Show - Thursday 3pm to 5pm  
 Survivor's Corner - Friday 4am to 7am  
 West Indian Rhythms Show - Saturday 4pm to 7pm  
 Bhum-Bhum Time Show - Sunday 4pm to 6pm  
 CKRK 103.7 FM or www.k103radio.com  
 Reggae Jam Show - Sunday 9pm to 12am  
 CJLO 1690 AM or www.cjlo.com  
 World Beat News - Tuesday 12pm to 1pm  
 Callaloo After Dark - Tuesday 11pm to Wednesday 1am  
 Beat The World - Saturday 12pm to 2pm  
 Caribbean Callaloo - Saturday 2pm - 4pm  
 More Fyah - Saturday 4pm to 6pm  
 Anatomy of Caribbean Music - Saturday 8pm to 10pm

## ON CHRW 94.9FM

Dr Roper Show by Derrick Roper – Thursdays 12am - 2am  
 Rootsman Skankin with King David alternating with Yard Vibes with Superfly Thursdays 10pm - 12am  
 Positive Journey with dahJah - Saturdays 8pm - 10pm

## ON WWW.KNR1.COM

Rootsman Skankin with King David - Saturdays 2pm - 6pm  
 The Point of No Return with JAHLOU - Sundays 8pm - 10pm  
 The Sunday Evening Wind Down with dahJah – Sundays 10pm - 12am  
 The Positive Journey with dahJah -Tues 8pm - 12am & Fri 12pm - 2pm  
 www.kingdomnubia.com / www.knr1.com  
 One Love Radio - 106.5FM - Hartford, Connecticut  
 iriesensationradio.co.uk | realvibes.org | jamradio.co.uk | starzfmradio.com  
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 The Karibbean Flava | zeno.fm/radio/culchashockradio - Saturdays -  
 #TheTyrellEffect - World Music | www.qradio.gm (Qradio 103.3) - DJ Mutabaruka (Gambia) - Sunday & Thursday - 6pm - 8pm EST

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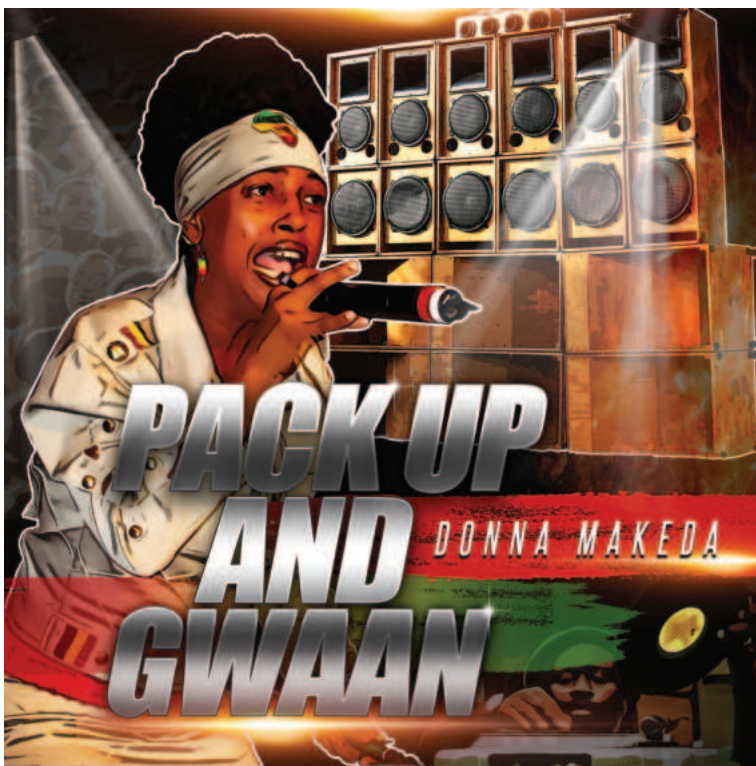
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