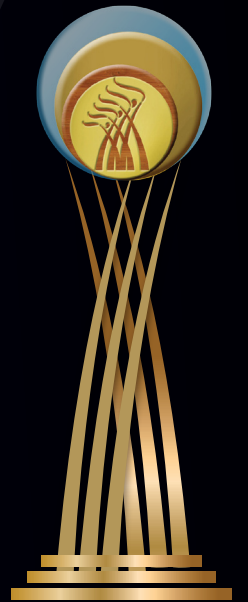


National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago





National Icons
The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Award Ceremony 2013



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SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DR. BHOENDRADATT TEWARIE
MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRMAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
NATIONAL ICONS PUBLICATION

It is with great pleasure that the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Office of the Prime Minister, presents to the nation 60 nationals and organizations who have personified and epitomised the strong values, fundamental beliefs, and cultural aspirations of our society. These icons have done much, have given more and are easily identifiable with the life, history and evolution of Trinidad and Tobago society since Independence. We acknowledge their talent, we are grateful for their contribution, and we are inspired by their patriotism, their dedication to their vocation, and their service to humanity.

Last year when we were celebrating our fiftieth anniversary as a sovereign nation, on the basis of a clear recommendation by the High Level Panel of Experts appointed by Cabinet we committed to honouring fifty (50) individuals or groups that have made significant contributions to the life and development of our country. A Citizens' Advisory Committee was established to independently invite nominations from the public and to make recommendations. They recommended more than fifty and categorized and ranked them. Given that Trinidad and Tobago is now beginning in 2013 the decade that will commemorate its sixtieth anniversary in 2022, we took a decision to recognize sixty icons on this occasion. There will be other opportunities for the recognition of others over the coming decade. This is a very fortunate country in which many gifted people have given much of their talent, spirit and energy over the years.

Reading the short biographies of the sixty people and organizations recognized on the evening of May 20 gives us the opportunity to reflect on just how much we take for granted. It also allows us an opportunity to put things in context. There are individuals and groups among us who have been best in the world or best that they could be and they have made a difference to our lives and a difference in the world.



Cognisance of this prompts us to consider how much better we might be as a nation if more of us would do more and give more of ourselves and collaborate constructively with each other to achieve higher heights.

As Chair of a Cabinet-appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee charged with the responsibility of coordinating our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration and as Minister with the duty of charting the course for sustainable development of our country, I am happy to be associated with this event which celebrates contribution and achievement. I am grateful for the collaboration of the Honourable Prime Minister Mrs Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her office as well as for the work of the Citizens' Advisory Panel chaired by Professor Brinsley Samaroo. But most of all I am grateful for the consent of these sixty icons to participate and so to create this uniquely uplifting occasion, I am even more grateful to His Excellency President Thomas Aquinas Carmona for making his unifying presence felt at this ceremony of recognition of achievement.

May God always bless our nation and its people.

Dr. Keith Nurse
Former Chair, High Level Expert Panel for the
Implementation of Arts, Cultural and Entrepreneurial
Projects and the Patriotism Project in Trinidad & Tobago
World Trade Organization Chair at the University
of the West Indies

Trinidad and Tobago is a remarkable country with remarkable people. It is our people, both at home and abroad in the Diaspora, and their achievements that make us distinctive. Our national icons, which we are celebrating today, have not just made us proud, they have made an indelible mark on our consciousness as a people as well as made an impact globally, whether it be intellectual, scientific and creative thought or sports, international relations and liberation struggles in Africa, Asia, North America and the Caribbean. Indeed, we can assert boldly that as a small island nation that we have punched above our weight and that we are "a people with a history". In particular, the people of Trinidad and Tobago can be proud of their contribution in the realm of the creative and cultural sector.

The Trinidad and Tobago carnival is the most globalized festival in the world and several of our art forms such as calypso, soca, chutney, rapso, parang, steel pan and 'mas' have generated rich innovations that are copied far afield. The stellar work of our artists in the literary, visual, and performing arts along with the burgeoning fashion, audiovisual, animation and new media sectors should make us stand tall. The benefits are not just economic in that these art forms and the individual achievements of our artists and creative entrepreneurs bolster our cultural confidence and define our sense of identity in ways that are immeasurable. The future is promising once we embrace this opportunity to learn from our past and forge a sustained platform that invests in the sensibilities of our youth and their creativity.

On behalf of the Cabinet-appointed High Level Expert Panel for the Implementation of Arts, Cultural and Entrepreneurial Projects and the Patriotism Project I would like to congratulate the national icon awardees for their sterling contribution to their discipline and to the nation and wish them well in their future endeavours.



**THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR SC, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

NATIONAL ICONS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

It is indeed a distinct pleasure for me to join the national community in formally recognizing and honouring those special individuals and groups who have made sterling contributions to Trinidad and Tobago over the last fifty (50) years. Collectively, these National Icons have made a significant contribution to our national development at the local, regional, and international levels since the attainment of Independence in 1962.

Through their courage, initiative, hard work, deep sense of patriotism, and an undying belief in a better Trinidad and Tobago they have blazed a trail for all of us to follow in areas such as creative arts, culture, architecture, philosophy, politics, public service, science, sport, religion, media, community building, entrepreneurship, and business education.

As a relatively young nation, we are indeed extremely grateful to these sons and daughters of the soil who have shaped our history and have charted a course for an authentic future for our beloved country. While we take good example from these National Icons and we mirror their tenacity of spirit, what we make of ourselves and of our country is entirely up to us.

Their hopes, their dreams, and their vision for themselves and their country were in their hands and they worked hard towards making these a reality.



Through the work of human hands and a desire in their hearts, they built a strong foundation for this country. It is this foundation that we are all called to build upon and improve. We too must put our shoulders to the grind and turn the wheels of lasting development and prosperity for Trinidad and Tobago. Their memory and their legacy deserve no less.

Author and historian Cornelius W. de Kiewiet (1902-1986) wrote: "Genius is the quality of the special spirit, whether in poetry or politics or science, which raises a man above a single locality or nation to influence the people of the world". In commemoration of our nation's 50th Anniversary of Independence, and with a profound sense of gratitude in our hearts, on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago I convey the thanks of a grateful nation as we recognize and honour these true patriots – these National Icons, past and present – for their service and their unconditional love of country.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, MP
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

National Icons (posthumous awards)

Lloyd Algernon Best
Philosophy/Economics

Patricia Alison Bishop T.C.
Creative Arts

Mahant Babu Boochoosingh
Culture/Ramleela

Dr Sylvan Bowles T.C.
Science

Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler T.C.
Politics/Trade Unionism

Dr Rudranath Capildeo T.C.
Politics/Science

Carlisle Chang
Creative Arts

Patrick Chookolingo
Media

Sir Ellis Clarke T.C.
Public Service

Lord Learie Constantine T.C.
Sport/Public Service

Dr Jacob Delworth Elder
Cultural Research/Architecture

Noor Mohamed Hassanali T.C.
Public Service

Sir Solomon Hochoy T.C.
Public Service

Cyril Lionel Robert James T.C.
Politics/Philosophy

Ranjit Kumar
Science/Public Service

Harry Mahabir
Creative Arts/Music

Beryl McBurnie T.C.
Creative Arts/Dance

Dr Roy Neehall
Religion

Bishop Turnell Nelson
Religion/Theologian

**Archbishop
Anthony Gordon Pantin T.C.**
Religion

Sundar Popo Bahora
Creative Arts/Music

**Haji Sheik
Mohamed Shaffiq Rahaman**
Religion

Adrian Cola Rienzi O.R.T.T.
Culture/Politics/Trade Unionism

Aldwyn Roberts (Lord Kitchener)
Creative Arts/Music

Andre Tanker
Creative Arts/Music

Dr Eric E. Williams T.C.
Politics/Philosophy

Sir Hugh O. B. Wooding T.C.
Public Service



National Icons

Owen Baptiste

Media

Helen Bhagwansingh O.R.T.T.

Entrepreneurship

Dr Stephen Blizzard

Science

Dr Edwin Carrington T.C.

Public Service

Hasely Crawford T.C.

Sports/Athletics

Justice Phillip Louis Ulric Cross

Public Service

The Orisha Council of Elders

Philosophy/Religion

Meiling Esau

Fashion/Entrepreneurship

Slinger Francisco (Mighty Sparrow)

Creative Arts/Music

Geoffrey Holder

Creative Arts

Ray Holman

Creative Arts/Music

Sidney Knox

Entrepreneurship

Anil Kokaram

Science/Technology

Harold La Borde T.C.

Sport/Sailing

Colin Laird

Architecture

Brian Charles Lara T.C. O.C.C.

Sports/Cricket

Earl Lovelace

Creative Arts/Literature

Elliot Mannette

Creative Arts

Robert Montano T.C.

Public Service/Entrepreneurship

Sir Vidiadhar S. Naipaul T.C.

Creative Arts/Literature

Horace Ove C.B.E.

Creative Arts/Film

Sheila Prince

Community Service

Mungal Patasar

Music

Arthur N. R. Robinson T.C. O.C.C.

Politics/Philosophy

David Michael Rudder

Creative Arts/Music

Anthony Sabga O.R.T.T.

Entrepreneurship

Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha

Religion

Jit Sukha Samaroo

Creative Arts/Music

Len "Boogsie" Sharpe

Creative Arts/Music

Abdul Aziz Trust

Philanthropy/Community Service

Anthony Williams O.R.T.T.

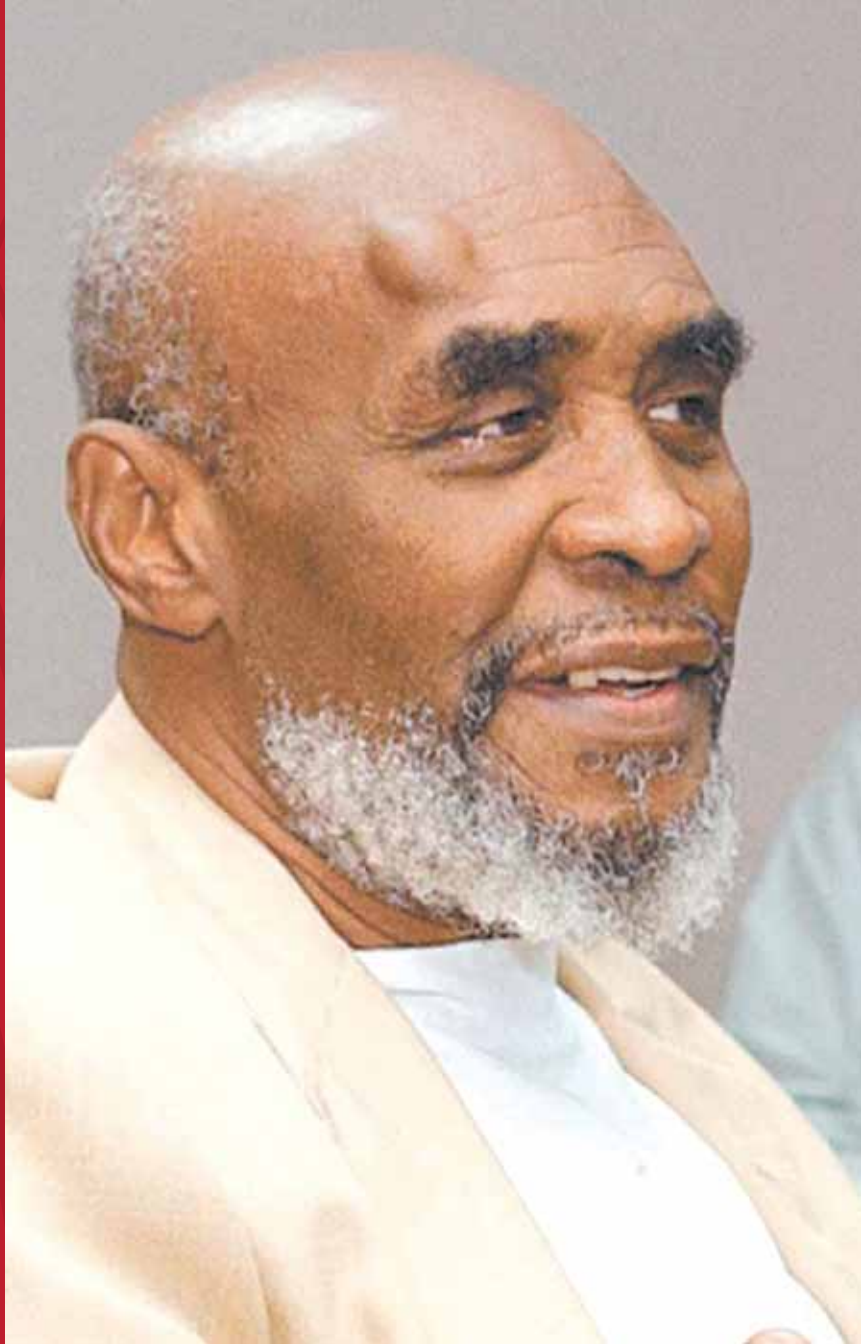
Creative Arts/Music

Robert Yorke

Science/Entrepreneurship

**Dwight Yorke (Captain) and
Members of the 2006
National Senior Football Team**

Sports/Football



Lloyd Algernon Best
(1934–2007)

Lloyd Algernon Best was a philosopher and social scientist who developed an original theory of Caribbean society as the basis for an independent model of development. His lifelong passion was to promote the Caribbean as a New World of possibility, drawing on the fragments of its history to create a society like none other.

Lloyd Best emphasized the critical importance of defining the Caribbean reality as it was and not through the eyes of the Other. He railed against what he saw as the colonial tendency to apply imported ideologies to the interpretation of Caribbean society and argued that Caribbean problems required Caribbean solutions.

His own interpretation of Caribbean society was drawn from unrelenting observation and contemplation of the Caribbean condition from boyhood. Growing up in the ethnically diverse community of Tunapuna, in a family involved in farming and the lower trades, Lloyd Best later credited the ideas underpinning his Theory of Plantation Economy and Society to his observation of ordinary life around him.

He attended Tacarigua EC School, from where he got a scholarship to Queen's Royal College. Another scholarship allowed him to study at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England. In 1957, he returned to the Caribbean as a researcher in the Department of Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona. It was the beginning of an enduring preoccupation with releasing the Caribbean's potential for its own development.

His obsession with the challenge of development carried him deep into the study of the society, the nature of its politics and economy, its art, expression and attitudes. He argued that the source of dysfunction in Caribbean institutions and society lay in its founding condition as a society that had evolved out of the plantation economy based on forced labour. His many proposals for change, therefore, focused on the need for designing strategies to overcome the legacies of the region's history.

In 2006, the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, honoured his intellectual contribution with the award of an honorary Doctor of Letters.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



*National Icons
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of Trinidad and Tobago*



Patricia Alison Bishop T.C. (1946–2011)

Patricia Alison Bishop was an artist whose commitment to teaching lifted entire communities to heights of excellence outside the boundaries of their expectations.

From childhood, her passion for music, painting and poetry signalled a destiny in the Arts. After graduating from Bishop Anstey High School, she went to England on a national scholarship to study at King's College, Durham University. She later did a Master's degree in history at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus, where she taught for several years thereafter.

Those years were decisive in shaping the sense of purpose that would come to guide Pat Bishop's life. Her insights into Caribbean history and society, combined with her belief in the power of the Arts to soothe, liberate, shape and discipline led her into panyards, mas camps and other communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago. She became the medium through which classical training in the Arts passed to those outside the formal learning system and through whom the old classics were energized by the living creativity of the people's Arts.

In between her continuous painting and teaching, Pat Bishop maintained a gruelling schedule of outreach education, preparing community groups for the annual Music Festival and steelbands for festivals, Panorama competitions and overseas performances. She conducted and arranged music for leading steelbands, including Trinidad All Stars, Phase II, Renegades and Desperadoes.

Her most enduring relationship, however, was with Desperadoes, which she conducted on eight major tours of the United States, including two major concerts at Carnegie Music Hall. She made history as the first person to conduct a combined steelband and symphony orchestra when Desperadoes and the New York Pops performed together in the mid-1980s.

But it was in the Lydian Singers that her imagination enjoyed full range. As its musical director from 1987 until her passing in 2011, Pat Bishop established a permanent steelband wing in Lydians Steel, and brought in African and Tassa drummers, and dancers from folk and ballet disciplines. The result was a musical alchemy between the great classics of Europe and the indigenous art forms that was uniquely Caribbean.



Mahant Babu Boochoosingh (1889–1991)

Mahant Babu Boochoosingh is the embodiment of the struggle for survival of the historic Dow Village Ramleela Festival. For over 80 years he carried the responsibility for keeping it alive while protecting the legacy for the generations to come. Without that struggle, persistence and triumph, the proliferation of Ramleela in contemporary times would have been unlikely.

The first recorded Ramleela took place in Dow Village in 1880, nine years before the birth of Babu Boochoosingh. His relatives, indentured immigrants Gajja Singh and Mahadeo Lalla, are credited with staging the first open-air performance in 1880 based on their memories of it in Uttar Pradesh, India. Born into the festival, Babu Boochoosingh got involved in the annual performances from childhood. For him, the Ramleela was a deeply spiritual experience. As a devotee of Lord Rama, Babu Boochoosingh dedicated each performance to the Prince of Ayodhya whose story emphasizes the virtues of honour, sacrifice and duty.

Over the years he became respected as the keeper of the Ramleela tradition. His extensive knowledge and experience of Ramleela drew students and researchers from all over the world. His esteemed position earned him the holy title of Mahant.

Babu Boochoosingh's reverence of the Ramayana performance shaped the community's attitudes towards it. For them, as for him, it was a divine experience to be treated with respect.

At one stage, the Ramleela performers would spend the entire week at the Dow Village Hindu Mandir as part of the spiritual discipline and preparation for the enactment of the story of Lord Rama's travails and triumph.

In 1991, Mahant Babu passed away. Members of the Dow Village community say that he was chanting the Hindu prayer "Hare Rama" as he breathed his last.

The community is working to have the Dow Village Ramleela location declared a heritage site and to have it adorned with a bust of Mahant Babu Boochoosingh in honour of his contribution to the survival and growth of this historic tradition that has survived over 130 years and which is now stronger than ever.



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Dr Sylvan Edward Bowles T.C.
(1881–1963)

Dr Sylvan Bowles is the gift that keeps on giving to the people of Tobago where his generosity is immortalised through the Sylvan Bowles Scholarship Fund for the educational development of generations of children.

Sylvan E. Bowles was born at Patience Hill in 1881 but grew up and attended school in Bethel. The fourth of five children, he was forced to leave school at the age of 14 when his father died. To support the family, he got a job as a store clerk in Scarborough. By age 23, he had managed to save enough money to buy a ticket to New York, where he quickly got a job as a longshoreman. Eventually, having decided on a career in dentistry, he registered for evening classes to prepare for the Student's Qualifying Certificate Examination.

At age 38, he graduated from the College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York and opened a very successful practice in New York. Having made good, Dr Bowles returned to Tobago with a commitment to assist the people of his island. Although he had none of his own, children had a special place in his heart.

In 1938, in announcing the launch of the Sylvan Bowles Scholarship Fund, the Director of Education announced that Dr Bowles had made a "valuable public-spirited gift for the purpose of providing scholarships for education of ambitious and deserving youths of Tobago". Every year since 1939, six Bowles scholarships have been awarded to students in Tobago based on examinations administered by the education authorities. The scholarships are given as cash awards for purchasing textbooks and to cover tuition fees. Each award was tenable at Bishop's High School, Tobago, for three years. About 100 students benefited from the Sylvan Bowles Scholarship Fund, including President Arthur N.R. Robinson, one of the first recipients.

In 1963, in the 22nd year of the Sylvan Bowles Scholarship Fund, Dr Bowles died at the age of 82, having witnessed the fruits of his lifelong dream to help others. Following his death and in line with his wishes, the Fund continued to disperse the scholarships, although at the secondary and university levels. Another change mandated by his will was that the Sylvan Bowles Scholarship Fund would now be open to students from throughout the West Indies.

In 1998 Dr Sylvan Bowles was posthumously awarded the nation's highest honour, the Trinity Cross, in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding service.





Tubal Uriah “Buzz” Butler T.C.
(1897–1977)

Tubal Uriah Butler has been immortalised as the founder of the trade union movement of Trinidad and Tobago.

He was 24 years old when he migrated from Grenada to Trinidad in 1921 to find work as a pipefitter in the burgeoning oil industry. By then, his World War I experience in the British West India Regiment under the leadership of Captain Arthur Cipriani, had already transformed him into an advocate for social justice.

In the increasingly turbulent labour environment, Butler joined forces with Capt Cipriani's Trinidad Workingmen's Association. Disabled by an industrial accident in 1929, Butler turned his passion for justice into relentless agitation for workers' rights. In 1935, he rose to dramatic prominence when he led a 60-mile hunger march from the oilfields of south Trinidad to Port of Spain. Soon, however, Butler's more militant approach would lead him to form his own party, the British Empire Workers and Citizens Home Rule Party (BEW&CHRP).

Catapulted into labour politics, the charismatic leader organized oil workers in a massive sit-down strike that paralyzed the colony's oil industry. In the ensuing confrontation between workers and management, a warrant was issued for Butler's arrest on suspicion of sedition, prompting the labour riots of June 19, 1937. Butler fled into hiding, emerging three months later under an agreement to testify before a visiting British commission, only to be arrested and jailed for two years.

With his reputation rising to heroic proportions, Butler made a triumphant re-entry into politics after his release in 1939. It was to be short-lived. With the outbreak of World War II, British authorities deemed him a danger to the security of its oil supply and jailed him for the duration of the war (1939–45).

On his release from jail, Butler intensified his party's campaign for home rule and social justice. In the election of 1950, the BEW&CHRP won the largest number of seats of all the parties but went into opposition when none of its elected representatives were chosen for ministerial office by the Governor. Butler served on the Legislative Council from 1950–1961. He died in 1977.

Since 1973, Tubal Uriah Butler's contribution to the progress of workers and the development of the trade union movement has been observed with the national holiday of Labour Day on June 19th.

In 1969, he was honoured with the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross.



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Dr Rudranath Capildeo T.C.
(1920–1970)

Dr Rudranath Capildeo gained world recognition for his contribution to the fields of applied mathematics and physics but in Trinidad and Tobago, he is respected as the son who brought his talents home as the first Leader of the Opposition who showed strength as well as the ability to compromise in the framing of the 1962 Constitution and the achievement of national independence.

Dr Capildeo grew up in Lion House in Chaguanas, the house that was made famous in V.S. Naipaul's House for Mr Biswas. In 1938, after graduating from Queen's Royal College, he left for England to study medicine at Oxford University. However, health issues prompted him to transfer to the University of London where he graduated with a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics, M.Sc. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Mathematical Physics.

Described as a gifted educator, he taught mathematics and physics at the University of London while researching Albert Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity. In addition, he studied law. In 1958, with Trinidad in the throes of political activity, Dr Capildeo returned home to practise law. Within a year, he accepted an appointment as the first principal of the Trinidad Polytechnic School. Soon, politics was knocking at his door, with several leading members of the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) lobbying him to lead the party. In 1960, he was elected political leader of the DLP and entered Parliament the next year as Leader of the Opposition.

Over the next seven years, Dr Capildeo divided his time between politics at home and research in mathematical physics in London. In politics, he served as leader of the DLP from 1960–69 and Leader of the Opposition from 1961–63. Among the highlights of his parliamentary career was his leadership of the Opposition delegation to the Independence Conference at Marlborough House, London, in May 1962. There, he argued for the inclusion of constitutional guarantees mandating consultation between the Government and the Opposition in appointments to Service Commissions, and for freedom of worship.

His scientific interests took him into deep investigation of Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity from which he developed several new theories including "The Flexure Problem in Elasticity" and his study on the "Theory of Rotation and Gravity", referred to as "Capildeo's Theory". This latter was applied in early outer space expeditions in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1967 he published a book on Vector Algebra and Mechanics. In 1969, he was awarded the nation's highest honour, the Trinity Cross.

On May 12, 1970, at the relatively young age of 50, he died in England.





Carlisle Chang
(1921–2001)

Carlisle Chang is an artist of extraordinary breadth whose work is immortalised in the Coat of Arms and national flag of Trinidad and Tobago.

To many, he is the father of Trinidad Art for having drawn his inspiration from the cultural mosaic of his society. Growing up in San Juan, he helped Muslim friends make their Hosay tadjahs, decorated Hindu homes for ceremonial events and designed Carnival costumes for anyone who asked. Among his major influences was his tutor and mentor Amy Leong Pang, founder of the Society of Trinidad Independents that promoted the radical notion of an indigenous art aesthetic.

At age 29, he received a British Council scholarship to the L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts in London where he studied painting, ceramics and mural art. He followed this with studies at the Instituto Statale d'Arte Per La Ceramica in Italy. In 1954, he returned home to open his own art studio.

With the forces of nationalism marching towards Independence, Carlisle Chang became the centre of its creative firmament, serving on eight committees preparing for independence and producing a stream of artistic work. His art was in high demand and he was commissioned to produce several public works of art, including *The Inherent Nobility of Man* (1961), an imposing mural painted in the arrival hall of the old Piarco Airport, which was, tragically, demolished in 1979 to make way for building expansion.

In Carnival, he produced designs for Stephen Lee Heung and bands of his own, winning two Band of the Year titles with "China: Forbidden City" (1967) and "We Kinda People" (1975).

When the bottom fell out of the fine art market after the Black Power events of 1970, the entrepreneurial artist left painting to diversify into creative products. He established Gayap Industries Limited to produce Carnival and other dolls, copper work, handicraft, woodcarvings and embroidery. In this period, he also served as President of the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago (1984-89). When the effort flagged, he switched to interior design for corporate and private clients.

In 1997, after an interregnum of almost two decades, he returned to exhibition with the Clico Calendar titled *Costumes and Festivals of the Caribbean*. Carlisle Chang received many awards, including the national honour of the Hummingbird Award in 1964.

In 2001, Carlisle Chang passed away, leaving an indelible imprint on the landscape.



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Patrick David Chookolingo
(1922–1986)

Patrick David “Choko” Chookolingo is an innovative newspaper editor and entrepreneur whose unconventional approach to news has earned him the mantle of Godfather of Weekly Journalism. His daring and irreverent style sealed his reputation as one of the architects of press freedom in the Caribbean.

Patrick Chookolingo was a schoolteacher before he took up a career in journalism. He worked as a reporter, sub-editor and editor at the Gazette, Trinidad Guardian and the Trinidad Chronicle. He also lived in Grenada for two years editing the West Indian newspaper.

On his return to Trinidad in 1963 he worked as news editor at the British-owned Daily Mirror, until it folded in 1966. Afterwards, he was, briefly, the first general manager of the Trinidad Express, which succeeded the Daily Mirror.

In July 1970, he took the reins as editor of the Bomb, a new weekly publication grounded in the Trinidadian idiom. The merging of conventional journalism with indigenous forms of expression created the Trinidadian tabloid genre described as weekly journalism. While many were unsure about the potential viability of a new entrant into the newspaper market, the new weekly was immediately in high demand with its emphasis on political reporting and satire, corruption-busting and human interest, and community-based stories from around the country. In 1972, the more racy Sunday Punch was launched.

In 1982, Patrick Chookolingo left the Bomb to start his own weekly, the TnT Mirror. The paper began as a weekly newspaper but was expanded to include a sister edition called the Tuesday Mirror which has since become the Weekend Mirror.

Choko’s populist style of reporting and commentary, with its humour and insight into the Trinidadian condition, fuelled demand. The success of the style and format has left a lasting impression in influencing mainstream media towards a more people-centred journalism.

Patrick Chookolingo passed away on Father’s Day, in June 1986.



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Sir Ellis Clarke, T.C.
(1917–2010)

Sir Ellis Immanuel Innocent Clarke was the last Governor General of independent Trinidad and Tobago and the first President of the Republic. His contribution to constitutional development and reform has earned him recognition as the architect of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence and Republican Constitutions. A lawyer by training, he guided his country through its many constitutional changes beginning with the transition from Crown Colony to Independent nation in 1962 and to Republic in 1976.

Sir Ellis received his early education at St Mary's College where he won an island scholarship in Mathematics in 1938. Like other scholarship recipients of the day, he journeyed to England for his tertiary education, choosing to pursue studies in law at the University of London. After being admitted to the bar at Gray's Inn, he returned home to establish his private practice but was quickly recruited to serve in a series of key public offices. Among these were Solicitor-General (1954–1956) and Deputy Colonial Secretary (1956–57). He went on to serve as Attorney General in the first Cabinet of the People's National Movement led by Dr Eric Williams. In this capacity, he provided legal guidance for the Government at the 1962 Independence Conference at Marlborough House in London.

For a decade thereafter, he served as Ambassador to the United States, Canada and Mexico and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He returned home in 1972 to be sworn in as Governor General on the retirement of Sir Solomon Hochoy. On taking office, he was awarded a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II. His appointment came at a period of intense public debate over the need for constitutional reform. In 1976, he guided Trinidad and Tobago's transition from constitutional monarchy to Republic, which ended the era of Governor Generals and ushered in the Office of President.

Sir Ellis served for two terms as President, guiding the nation through the death in office of its longest serving Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams. With the country's first change of government in 1986, Sir Ellis retired from public life while continuing to provide sage advice on constitutional matters, at home and abroad. In 1993, Sir Ellis was among six experts worldwide who were asked to submit reports to Australia's Republic Advisory by detailing his country's experience in moving from a constitutional monarchy to republic.

On December 30, 2010, Sir Ellis Immanuel Innocent passed away at his home in Maraval.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Lord Constantine T.C.
(1901–1971)



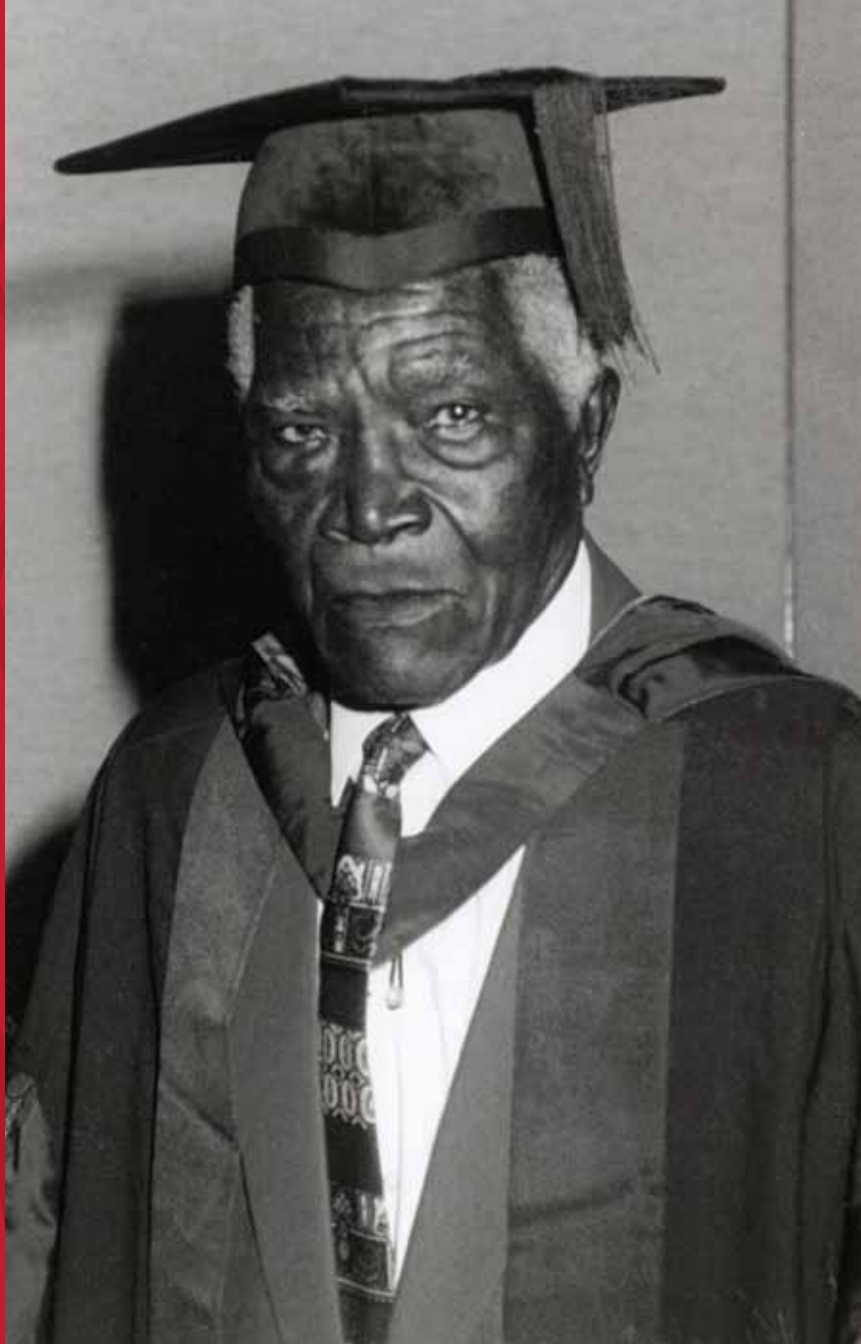
Learie Nicholas Constantine is a cricketing legend from Trinidad and Tobago who crossed the boundaries between cricket, politics and race with ease. He changed the course of British history by challenging racial discrimination in a legal milestone that influenced the passage of Britain's Race Relations Act of 1965. Respected for his cricketing prowess and dignified intelligence, he rose into the ranks of British nobility as the first black peer in the House of Lords.

Lord Constantine was born into a cricketing family in Petit Valley, west Trinidad. His father, Lebrun, made history as the first West Indian to score a century in England. At age 22, Learie Constantine debuted as an outstanding all-rounder during the West Indies tour of England. But it was the tour of 1928 that sealed his reputation. Described as an epic hour at Lord's, Learie Constantine cracked 107 runs in under an hour against Middlesex and took seven wickets for 57 runs and six wickets for 11 runs. Courted by several leagues, he chose Nelson Cricket and Bowling Club in Lancaster where he earned enough money to support his family and pay for legal studies while becoming one of the greatest all-rounders of the game. In 1930, he bowled the West Indies to their first Test Match win against England.

His celebrity on the field did not always translate into acceptance by British society. In 1944, he won a racial discrimination suit against the Imperial Hotel in London for rescinding his booking out of concern for some white guests. The case marked a turning point in official attitudes to people of colour, which in turn led to the anti-discrimination legislation under the Race Relations Act of 1965. Increasingly, Learie Constantine became involved in social relations, liaising and mediating on behalf of West Indians. In 1954, after being called to the bar, he published a book on racism titled *Colour Bar*.

In late 1954, he returned to Trinidad where, persuaded by Dr Eric Williams, he contested the Tunapuna seat in the 1956 general election, and won. He then joined the Williams Cabinet as Minister of Communications. At the end of his five-year term, he returned to England as the Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner. In 1969, he moved into the Upper House as Baron Constantine of Maraval and Nelson.

In 1971, at age 70, he died in London and was given a state funeral in Trinidad, before burial at the Arouca Cemetery. That year, he was awarded the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross.



Jacob Delworth Elder
(1913–2003)

Jacob Delworth Elder is a towering presence in the cultural landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. His field research, scholarly insights and championing of indigenous culture helped to change official attitudes to the culture of the masses, while assembling a trove of information and understanding for future generations.

In his quest to promote cultural wholeness, J.D. Elder straddled the world of academia and politics, bringing expertise and insight to the process of change.

He grew up in Charlotteville, Tobago, at a time when the cultural expressions of the masses were socially ostracized and even banned by law. His application of the tools of scholarship to folk culture served to validate and legitimize the culture of the under-class and to build their confidence. His early jobs as primary school teacher and community development officer gave him privileged access to the traditional cultures of Tobago's African descendants. Over the career of a lifetime, he conducted extensive field research into the history of kalinda, steelpan, calypso, Carnival, African religions, architecture, folktales and folk music. His voluminous body of work attracted the attention of anthropological scholars throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

In 1965, J.D. Elder was awarded the Ph.D. in anthropology from the Department of Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States where he would lecture for several years. In the mid-1970s, he spent four years in Nigeria as a research professor at the University of Ibadan and as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Maiduguri.

In the 1980s, he was appointed to the Tobago House of Assembly where he held the portfolio of Culture and Education. Among his legacies from that period is the Tobago Heritage Festival, which built on his work as a consultant to the Best Village Folklore competition in the 1960s.

In 2012, a segment of his extensive archives was donated by the Dr J.D. Elder Collection Foundation to the Alma Jordan Library at the University of the West Indies.

In 1981, J.D. Elder was awarded the Humming Bird Medal for his contribution to cultural research and the development of Trinidad and Tobago.

On October 13, 2003, he passed away, just days before his 90th birthday.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Noor Mohamed Hassanali T.C.
(1918–2006)

Noor Mohamed Hassanali was the second President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and holds the distinction of having served under two different political administrations. He also made history as the first Indo-Trinidadian to hold the Office of President of Trinidad and Tobago and the first Muslim Head of State in the Americas.

Born in south Trinidad, Noor Hassanali went to Canaan and Corinth Presbyterian primary schools where high academic achievement earned him a scholarship to Naparima College in San Fernando. In 1937, he was one of two students in the college's first class to graduate with the Higher School Certificate. For his outstanding academic performance and exploits in cricket and football, he was voted Best All-round Student. After graduation, he taught at Naparima College before going to Canada in 1943 to study law at the University of Toronto. In June 1948, he was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in London and, later that year, admitted to practice in Trinidad and Tobago.

Noor Hassanali practised law for five years until his appointment as a magistrate. From 1953 to 1960, he traversed the country, serving in the districts of Victoria, Tobago, St Patrick, Caroni and St George West. In January 1960, he was promoted to senior magistrate, from where he took up the position of Senior Crown Counsel in the Chambers of the Attorney General. In 1966, after a year as Assistant Solicitor General, he was appointed Judge of the High Court. He served for 11 years until 1978, when he was appointed Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court. In April 1985, Justice Hassanali retired from judicial duties but continued his life of public service.

In March 1987, Noor Mohammed Hassanali was sworn in as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago under the administration of the National Alliance for Reconstruction headed by A.N.R. Robinson. A major challenge of his term was to guide the country through the aftermath of an attempted coup in 1990. With a change of government in 1991, President Hassanali was nominated as the choice of the new government of the People's National Movement headed by Patrick Manning.

President Noor Mohammed Hassanali served until 1997 following which he went into quiet retirement. On August 25, 2006, Noor Mohammed Hassanali died at his home at the age of 88.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Sir Solomon Hochoy T.C.
(1905–1983)

Sir Solomon Hochoy made history when he broke the colour barrier to become the first person of colour to be appointed Governor in any colonial British territory, and the last British Governor of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago. The announcement of Sir Solomon's appointment reverberated throughout the British Empire, making headlines in places far beyond the Caribbean.

His swearing-in as Governor came in 1960 as Britain and her West Indian colonies engaged in constitutional negotiations to pave the way for independence under a West Indies Federation. The fact that he was born in Jamaica and grew up in Trinidad was cited as an advantage in the context of the times. In the end, the Federation did not stand, but Sir Solomon would go on to serve for 12 years, first as Governor from 1960–62, and then as Governor-General when Trinidad and Tobago became independent on August 31, 1962.

Solomon Hochoy was two years old when his parents, of Hakka Chinese descent, moved to Trinidad from Jamaica. The family settled in the fishing community of Blanchisseuse, along Trinidad's northeast coast. He began his working life as a depot keeper in the Government Coastal Steamers' Department before moving to the Trinidad Port and Marine Department in 1931. Eight years later, he moved to the ground floor of industrial relations as an industrial adviser's clerk before climbing the ladder to the position of Labour Officer and then, in 1949, to the top as Commissioner of Labour. From there he was appointed Chief Secretary of the colony in 1956, a position that required him to act as Governor in the absence of then Governor Sir Edward Beetham.

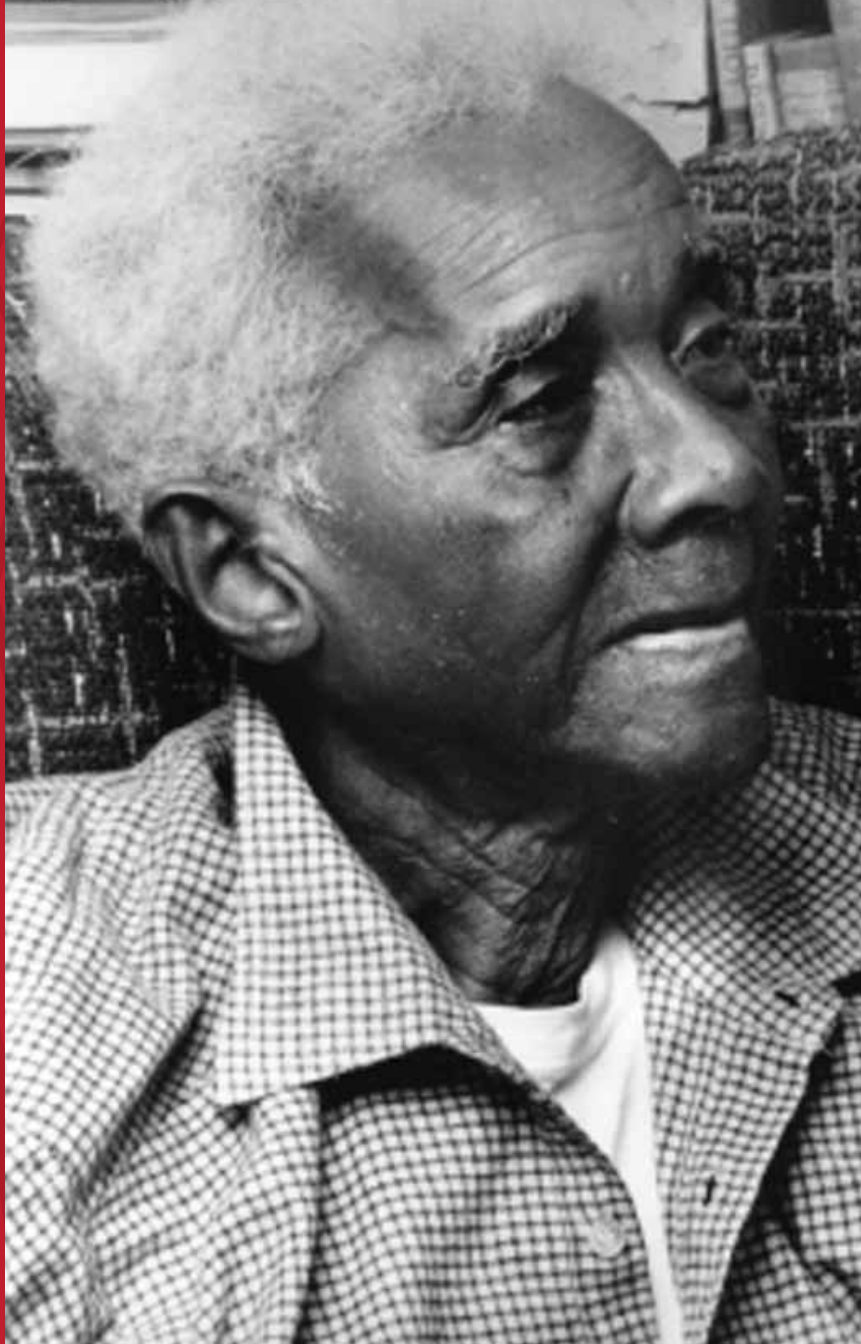
His appointment as Governor was greeted with widespread revelry and hailed as a breakthrough for West Indians with ambition. On June 13, 1960, Sir Solomon Hochoy, Knight Commander of St Michael and St George, was sworn in as Governor.

In the dawning years of the Independence era, Sir Solomon served as a calm and caring presence. His wife, Lady Thelma, helped burnish the office with the warmth of her social concerns, especially for children with special needs. Her legacy survives in the Lady Hochoy Home while his is immortalized in the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway. He was awarded the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross, in 1969.

In 1972, Sir Solomon retired from office and returned to the rural peace of Blanchisseuse where, 11 years later, on November 15, 1983, he passed away.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Cyril Lionel Robert James T.C.
(1901–1989)



Cyril Lionel Robert James was a philosopher, writer, Marxist theorist, sports journalist and political activist whose intellectual contribution to the world is among the most influential of the 20th century.

This polymath grew up in Tunapuna, which became the backdrop for his highly acclaimed 1963 book *Beyond A Boundary*, which is recognized as a seminal work on cricket.

C.L.R. James secured a scholarship to Queen's Royal College in Port of Spain, where he taught after graduation. His interest in ideas, discussion and writing found fertile ground in the anti-colonial Beacon Group. Some of James' early writings were published in the group's Beacon magazine.

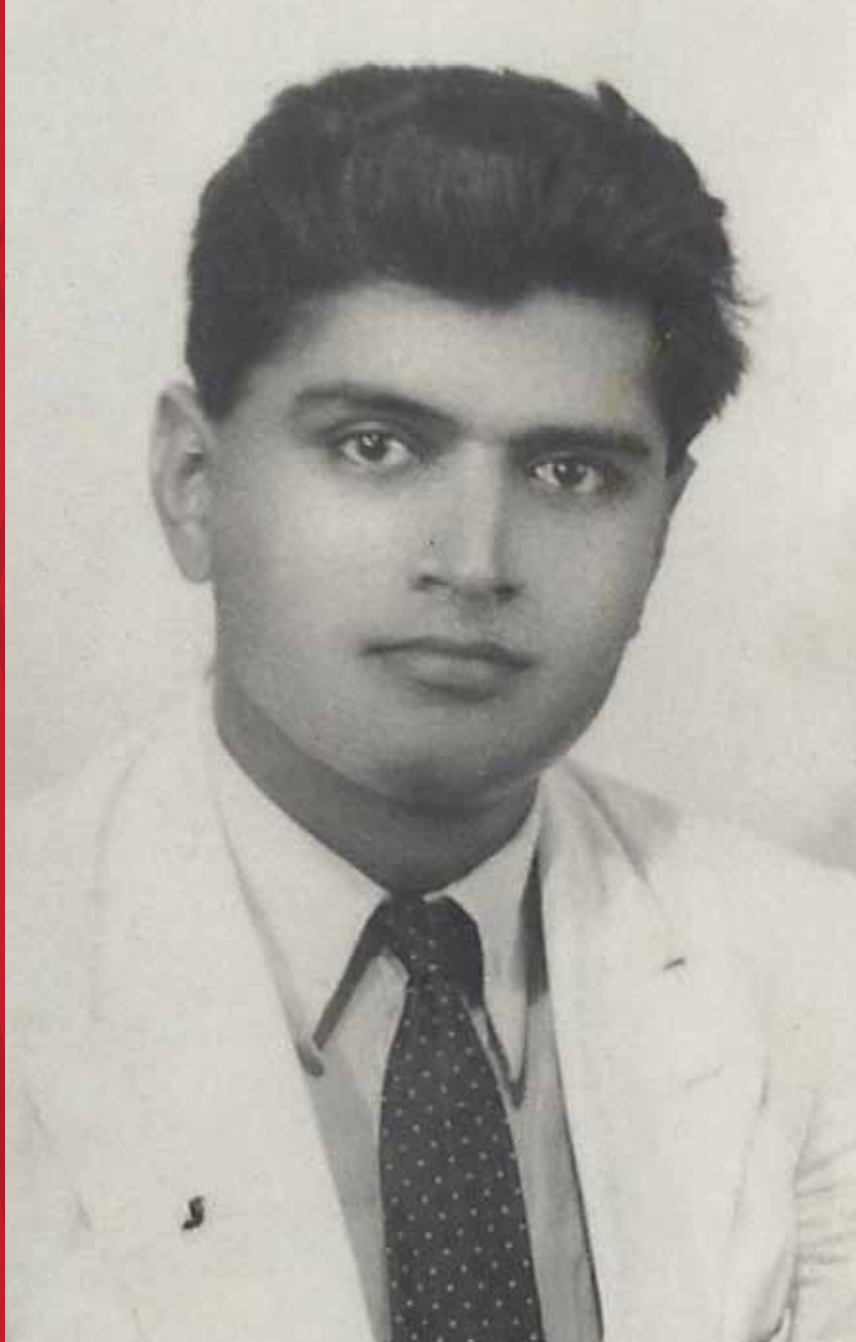
At age 31, CLR James left Trinidad for Lancashire, England, to help write the autobiography, *Cricket*, of his friend, the renowned cricketer Learie Constantine. Among their bonds was a shared commitment to West Indian self-government. With Sir Learie's support, James later published *The Case For West Indian Self-Government*.

From Lancashire, James moved to London where he joined a Trotskyist group and became intensely involved in the global currents of Marxism, Pan-Africanism and decolonization. With his breadth of knowledge of history and human civilization and his passionate advocacy for revolutionary change, James engaged political issues on every continent through a trans-global network of associates. Throughout it all, he wrote relentlessly — plays, novels, essays and philosophical tracts of every kind. In 1936, he published the novel *Minty Alley*, becoming the first Afro-Caribbean author to be published in the UK. That year he also wrote the play *Toussaint L'Ouverture* and the book *Black Jacobins*.

After 26 years travelling the world, James returned to Trinidad in 1958, two years after his former QRC student, Eric Williams, was elected Chief Minister. Excited by the imminent prospect of independence and nationhood, C.L.R. James became the editor of *The Nation*, the organ of the ruling People's National Movement, which he saw as an important educational avenue for a people on the cusp of Independence.

When the relationship between himself and Dr Williams became strained, James left Trinidad. In 1965, while on a visit to cover cricket for the *Observer*, C.L.R. James was put under house arrest. After a few weeks, he was released without being charged. In 1986, he was honoured with the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross.

When he died in May 1989, James left an enormous body of intellectual work, devoted largely to human development.



Ranjit Kumar
(1912–1982)

Ranjit Kumar is an adopted son of the soil whose multi-faceted contributions to national life have had an enduring impact. He pioneered the distribution of Indian movies in this country; planned, designed and constructed the Wrightson Road dual carriageway; led the first reclamation project along the Mucurapo Foreshore and engaged local government politics.

He was born in India, but went to England as a child with his mother in the years after his father's death. He studied engineering and excelled academically but returned to India in the early 1930s when he couldn't land a job. Not even academic honours, it seemed, could protect from discrimination on the basis of his race and youth. In India, he joined the Police Service and rose quickly to the senior ranks until 1935 when he met a Trinidadian who excited him about the prospects for marketing Indian films in the Caribbean. Within months, Ranjit Kumar arrived in Trinidad with a movie, *Bala Joban*, which was a big success and pivotal in shaping the identity of the Indo-Trinidadian community. Within months, his film distribution business was thriving in Guyana as well. Within two years, he sold the film business and, finally, took up a job in his chosen profession as Assistant Engineer with the Public Works Department.

Among his successes there were the development of the Morvant Housing Estate, the construction of Wrightson Road in 1940, and land reclamation along the foreshore, the development of irrigation and drainage systems to alleviate flooding in the city and the design and construction of several landmark buildings, including the Hilton Hotel and FedChem offices.

In the 1940s, Ranjit Kumar entered local government politics and was twice elected to the Port of Spain City Council (1943–1945 and 1947–1950). He was also Alderman of the City Council from 1950–1956, a member of the Constitutional Reform Committee of 1947 and a member of the Legislative Council between 1946 and 1956. He fought for many issues such as electricity, water and drainage, and defended minority rights.

He was an Independent candidate first and then a Butlerite under the famous trade unionist Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler. His representation extended to constituencies as far apart as Princes Town and his hometown of St James. His involvement in politics continued until his death on September 1, 1982 when he passed away at the age of 70.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Harry Mahabir
(1934–2007)



Harry Mahabir is the musical bridge over which Indian rhythms flowed and changed as it connected with the popular culture of Trinidad and Tobago. His interpretation and expression of Indian music helped to make it more accessible to all audiences in Trinidad and Tobago. In this way, Harry Mahabir was critical to the process by which Indo-Trinidadian music entered the mainstream, influencing and being influenced by other musical genres. As musical director of the BWIA National Indian Orchestra of Trinidad and Tobago, backing up hundreds of contestants in the Mastana Bahar competition and performing before weekly audiences of thousands, Harry Mahabir's impact was decisive and incontrovertible.

His years of working with the popular television Indian talent show capped a lifetime career in music which had begun from the day he was born. His father Roop Mahabir was a well-known violin player of Sangre Grande in east Trinidad. In later years, Harry Mahabir would recall the impact of his father's violin music on him, saying it was the source of the inspiration that led him to music.

Growing up, he gravitated to other instruments as well, such as the dholak drum and the harmonium. His obvious talent caught the attention of others. Soon, he was being asked to perform at public events. As a teenager, he joined the Naya Zamana Orchestra led by the late Ustad Nazir Mohammed.

In 1965, an incident in London had a decisive influence on Harry Mahabir's musical path. As part of the Trinidad and Tobago contingent to the Commonwealth Arts Festival in London, he arrived ready to perform a repertoire of popular Indian film songs only to discover that the Indian contingent included the great singers who had recorded the music. Under pressure, he turned to Indo-Trinidadian folk songs, silently vowing to work towards something that was uniquely Trinidadian and not just a carbon copy of India.

That same year, Harry Mahabir went to India on a two-year scholarship to study music. While there he worked intermittently on background music for Indian films, including the popular Ram Aur Shyam. Back home, he continued performing at public events until 1970, when his main commitment became the weekly Mastana Bahar show. Ultimately, this talent competition would become the forum for moving towards the distinctive and original sound that was uniquely Trinbagonian.

In 1972, for his contribution to music, Harry Mahabir was awarded the Hummingbird Medal (Silver) by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.



Beryl Mcburnie T.C.
(1915–2000)

Beryl McBurnie is a legend who danced across the stream of history and changed the culture forever. Almost single-handedly, she orchestrated the cultural awakening that brought the first steelband on stage, put folk culture into the mainstream and imbued the independence movement with a sense of cultural confidence in the indigenous arts.

An exciting performer, the dancer billed as La Belle Rosette set New York stages on fire. But personal achievement alone was not enough for a woman committed to birthing a nation.

Beryl McBurnie's story began at the family home on 69 Roberts Street, Woodbrook, where her passion to perform and capacity for organization were evident in the backyard shows she put on during her student days at Tranquillity Girls' Intermediate and Teachers' Training College. Her first job as a teacher gave full rein to her love of dance, music and theatre. Her education continued out in the field with folklorist Andrew Carr while he researched local culture and traditions. In 1938, she left Trinidad to study dance at Columbia University in New York where she studied under Martha Graham, met the great Black American actor Paul Robeson and worked on Broadway. Home on holiday in 1940, she pulled together a troupe of amateurs to produce *A Walk Through The Tropics*, featuring the neighbouring Invaders Steelband, making it the first time Pan was put on stage. It played to sell-out crowds, proving that she had hit a rich vein of interest in local culture.

Her crusading work inspired Rex Nettleford to found the Jamaica National Dance Theatre Company, succoured Nobel Prize writer Derek Walcott in his early years in Trinidad and set the template for generations of dancers. She travelled the length and breadth of the country and knocked on every door, raising money, solving problems and seeking support for the Arts. In November 1948, she fulfilled a dream when Paul Robeson laid the foundation stone of the Little Carib Theatre at Roberts St, Woodbrook, launching the country's first permanent theatre and the Little Carib Dance Company. Her opening production of *Carnival Bele* featured a J'Ouvert band dancing ballet to steelband music. Other notable productions were *Talking Drums*, *Sugar Ballet*, *Caribbean Cruise* and *Parang*. For her contribution to dance and the Arts, Beryl McBurnie received many awards and honours including an honorary doctorate from UWI (1976), and her country's highest honour, the Trinity Cross (1989).



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Reverend Roy Gilbert Neehall
(1928–1996)

Roy Gilbert Neehall was a respected moderator of the Presbyterian Church who was the first Senator to be appointed to represent religious views in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. He was an influential figure in the ecumenical movement among Christian churches and a foundation member of the Caribbean Council of Churches.

Born in Woodbrook, Port of Spain, Roy Neehall went to the nearby Queen's Royal College before going to Canada where he studied Modern History and Languages at the University of Toronto. He did pastoral duty in Penal, south Trinidad, as well as in Woodbrook.

In 1963, Reverend Neehall was appointed to the Senate as an Independent Senator, often bringing a moral and spiritual dimension to debate proceedings.

One of his more memorable contributions came during debate on legislation to introduce the National Lotteries. He was stoutly opposed to the idea of the country earning revenue through gambling.

In 1969 he left Trinidad and Tobago to take up an appointment as Assistant Secretary of the joint Roman Catholic Church/World Council of Churches Committee based in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the early Eighties, Rev. Neehall migrated to Edmonton, Canada, where he became a minister of the United Church of Canada. He maintained contact with family and friends in Trinidad and occasionally made trips home to visit them.

On 3rd August 1996, Rev Roy Neehall passed away in Canada.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Apostle Turnel J. Nelson
(1938–2006)

Apostle Turnel J. Nelson is a pioneer televangelist who guided the Pentecostal community of Trinidad and Tobago over a dynamic period of development and expansion.

Born in Tobago, he was 19 years old when he converted to the Pentecostal faith and accepted the calling to spread the Word, travelling from village to village to preach the message of the Gospel. He is credited with the rapid increase in Pentecostal churches in Tobago and the growth of the born-again population in the 1960s. Convinced of his destiny in the Church, he enrolled at the West Indies School of Theology in the three-year diploma programme in theology.

In 1965, he and his wife Reverend Joycelyn Nelson moved to Trinidad after he was invited to accept the position of Pastor at the Woodbrook Pentecostal Church. From there he built a reputation for dynamic leadership and zeal in preaching. Under his guidance, the church engaged in strong crusading activity, setting up tents and building churches throughout the country. He quickly rose within the Pentecostal order and was elected to serve as the General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI), the highest office in the Caribbean, where he held responsibility for 240 churches and some 75,000 members and adherents across the region. He was a founding member and First Vice President of the International Third World Leaders Association with ministers of religion from the Caribbean, Africa and the Americas.

Apostle Nelson embraced televangelism early, recognising its power to reach the flock and connect with new audiences. Many of his sermons were produced for distribution. He also wrote two books. He was admired for his energy and personal engagement with the Pentecostal community, visiting almost every one of its churches over the course of his stewardship. Within the church, he was the Spiritual Father to many ministers, pastors, evangelists and others.

In 2006, after a lengthy illness, he passed away.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Anthony Gordon Pantin T.C.
(1929–2000)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Anthony Gordon Pantin made history as the first national of Trinidad and Tobago to be appointed to the position of Archbishop of Port of Spain of the Roman Catholic Church. He was a loved and respected spiritual leader who actively engaged in social mediation during times of crisis.

Archbishop Pantin began his education at Sacred Heart and Belmont Intermediate Schools, from which he won a government scholarship to St Mary's College. Like his siblings, he had a great love for sport, enjoying cricket and football and sailing with the Sixth Trinidad Sea Scouts. But from childhood, as an acolyte at St Patrick's Church, his heart was set on a life in the priesthood. At age 17, after graduating with high academic scores, he immediately set about making preparations to enter the priesthood.

In 1946, he left Trinidad for Canada, where he entered the novitiate of the Holy Ghost Congregation and enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts programme at the University of Montreal. On completion, he returned to Trinidad and taught for three years at his alma mater, St Mary's College.

His next stop on the path to the priesthood was Dublin, Ireland, where he pursued studies in Theology. On July 3, 1955, Anthony Gordon Pantin was ordained a priest of the Catholic Church. His first assignment was a four-year posting as a missionary priest in Guadeloupe. When it ended, he returned to Trinidad and began a five-year teaching stint at Fatima College in Port of Spain.

In 1965, he returned to St Mary's College where he served for two years in the post of Religious Superior. In November 1967, he was invited to head the Archdiocese of Port of Spain. On March 19, 1968, Father Anthony Pantin was ordained Bishop Archbishop of Port of Spain. Over his 32 years of service as Archbishop, he was guided by his personal motto of being "all things to all men".

In whatever capacity he was needed, he came prepared to serve. For pregnant, unmarried teenagers, he founded the Mary Care Centre to give them a home and, in the troubled times of the 1970 Black Power crisis and the 1990 attempted coup, he acted as mediator between disputing parties. He took a lead in forming the Inter-Religious Organisation and actively promoted religious tolerance.

On March 11, 2000, Archbishop Anthony Gordon Pantin died in his sleep of acute heart failure. He is buried in the Cathedral crypt. Later that year, he was given the nation's highest honour, the Trinity Cross.



Sundar Popo Bahora (1943–2000)



*National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago*

Sundar Popo Bahora exists in the realm of legend as the breakthrough artiste who brought traditional Indo-Trinidadian Chutney music into the mainstream and laid the foundation for the birth of the new indigenous art form of Chutney Soca.

Born to musician parents, singing and performing seemed to come naturally to the young Sundar Popo. By the time he was 15, he was already a sensation within his community of Monkey Town, Barrackpore. With his repertoire of bhajans and popular songs, he was in high demand at mandirs, weddings and other events.

He shot into the national limelight in 1971 when he appeared on the weekly Mastana Bahar competition and performed "Nana and Nani" in the show's local composition category. With its blend of lyrics in Bhojपुरi and Trinidad dialect, set to the folk rhythm of Chutney music, the song revolutionized Indo-Trinidadian music and transported Sundar Popo into stardom. Responding to its popularity, music producer and radio broadcaster Moean Mohammed recorded the song under his label and gave it heavy airplay, launching the singer's career that would last until his passing in 2000.

High demand for Sundar Popo's music in the Indo-Caribbean diaspora in Guyana, Suriname, United States, Canada, Europe, Fiji and Mauritius turned him into an international performer with a broad fan base. In 1979, his music broke into the Indian market when Indian performers Babla and Kanchan recorded some of his songs, the most successful of which was "Pholourie Bina Chutney".

Over a career of three decades, Sundar Popo recorded more than 15 albums, with a succession of hits that made him one of the most sought after performers by concert promoters in Indo-Caribbean diaspora communities.

In 1995, calypsonian Black Stalin won the National Monarch title with his "Tribute to Sundar Popo". For his contribution to music and culture, Sundar Popo was awarded the Humming Bird Medal (Silver) in 1993, topping off a long list of awards and honours given to him by groups around the world. Despite failing health due to diabetes, he maintained a schedule of engagements, the last of which was at a concert in Connecticut on April 1, 2000. One month later, on May 2, he passed away.



Haji Sheik Mohamed Shafik Rahaman
(1917–1984)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Haji Sheik Mohamed Shafik Rahaman was a visionary Muslim leader and entrepreneur who made an enduring impact in both religion and business in Trinidad and Tobago. As President General of the Anjuman Sunnat-ul-Jamaat Association (ASJA), he was pivotal in defining the role and image of the Muslim community, especially after Independence. His voice was important in the establishment of non-Christian denominational schools and the Inter-Religious Organisation.

Haji Shafik came from a devout Muslim family. His father Hafiz Yacoob Ali was the first Trinidadian to be the Hafiz of Qur'an, with his ability to recite the Holy Qur'an by heart. For two decades, Haji Shafik served on the ASJA executive, and is credited with establishing the first ASJA primary school in 1952. Under his presidency, in 1966, ASJA was granted the concession to convert its private ASJA Boys' College in San Fernando into a denominational institution supported by the State. ASJA Girls' College followed in 1976. He also led ASJA's representation for the declaration of Eid-ul-Fitr as an annual national holiday, which took effect from 1967.

One of Haji Shafik's most high profile accomplishments was the Islamic Conference of South America and the Caribbean which was hosted in Trinidad in 1977 by ASJA, in collaboration with the Rabita office of Saudi Arabia.

For over 18 years until his death in 1984, Haji Shafik served as the representative of the Muslim World League in Trinidad, the wider Caribbean and South America.

In his secular activities, Haji Shafik was one of the most successful businessmen and entrepreneurs in San Fernando. As executive chairman, he transformed the business that his father-in-law had started in 1888 as a house-to-house cloth trade, into the petroleum powerhouse of the Rahamut Group of Companies and Ramco Industries Ltd.

In the late 1950s, he partnered with a group of southern businessmen to launch Capital Insurance as a pioneer in the insurance business. He was also a founding member of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, which he served as President.

In sport, Haji Shafik was a cricket enthusiast who helped to start the Rahamut Cricket club and worked with his friend L.K. Jaggernauth to establish the Jaggernauth Cricket League in San Fernando.



Adrian Cola Rienzi O.R.T.T
(1905–1972)



*National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago*

Adrian Cola Rienzi combined the skills of a trade unionist, lawyer and politician to promote labour solidarity at a critical moment in the history of the labour movement of Trinidad and Tobago. Astutely straddling the worlds of oil and sugar, Rienzi provided pioneering leadership in the quest for labour unity across ethnic lines.

Growing up in Palmyra, south Trinidad, under penurious circumstances, he had an early experience of the challenges of the working poor and those on the margins of society. An intelligent youngster, poverty forced him to drop out of Naparima College in Form Three to support his family. Fortuitously, he found employment with the prominent lawyer J.C. Hobson who fed his intellectual curiosity and encouraged his interest in books and ideas. It was from Hobson's books that he discovered the Italian social activist Cola de Rienzo whose example so inspired him that he abandoned the name Krishna Deonarine, given to him at birth, and re-christened himself Adrian Cola Rienzi in 1922.

From Hobson's, he went on to study law in Dublin, Ireland. On his return home in 1934, he threw himself into organizing workers in oil and sugar. In 1935, Cola Rienzi founded the Trinidad Citizens League, along with others, laying the basis for organised labour and the rise of trade unionism in the colony. At a time when ethnic differences were tearing other societies apart, Cola Rienzi's socialist orientation promoted a view of the world through the prism of class.

As one of the founders of both the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and the All Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factory Workers Trade Union, Cola Rienzi laid the foundation for collaboration that has remained an enduring aspect of the labour landscape.

He went on to engage electoral politics, serving four terms on the San Fernando Borough Council, three as Mayor. He also represented Victoria on the Legislative Council (1937–1944) where he promoted the Hindu right to cremation, the recognition of Hindu and Muslim marriages and the establishment of schools by non-Christian religious groups. Later, he joined the public service as a Crown Counsel.

Today, the name of Adrian Cola Rienzi survives in Rienzi Complex, the headquarters of the sugar union that he founded, and in the Rienzi-Kirton Highway in San Fernando. In 2012, he was awarded the nation's highest honour, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



Aldwyn Roberts (Lord Kitchener)
(1922–2000)

Aldwyn Roberts, the Lord Kitchener, is the acknowledged Grandmaster of Calypso, whose musical oeuvre displays an uncanny affinity to Mas and the Steelband. His records for winning the most Road March titles, and for producing the largest number of winning compositions in the Panorama competition, testify to this unique relationship.

He was born in an environment of rhythmic sound, to a blacksmith father and homemaker mother in Arima, east Trinidad. From the beginning, music was his stock in trade. His first paying job was to entertain water employees while they laid pipes. He quickly made a name for himself, being crowned Calypso King of Arima for four straight years, from 1938. The next move was inevitable. He went to Port of Spain and joined calypso's big league, singing for \$1 a night alongside presiding greats Growling Tiger, Roaring Lion and Attila The Hun.

In 1944, Kitchener penned his first composition for Pan with "Beat of the Pan". It marked the beginning of a unique relationship between calypso and steelband, in which Kitchener's compositions would come to influence the musical direction of the Panorama competition.

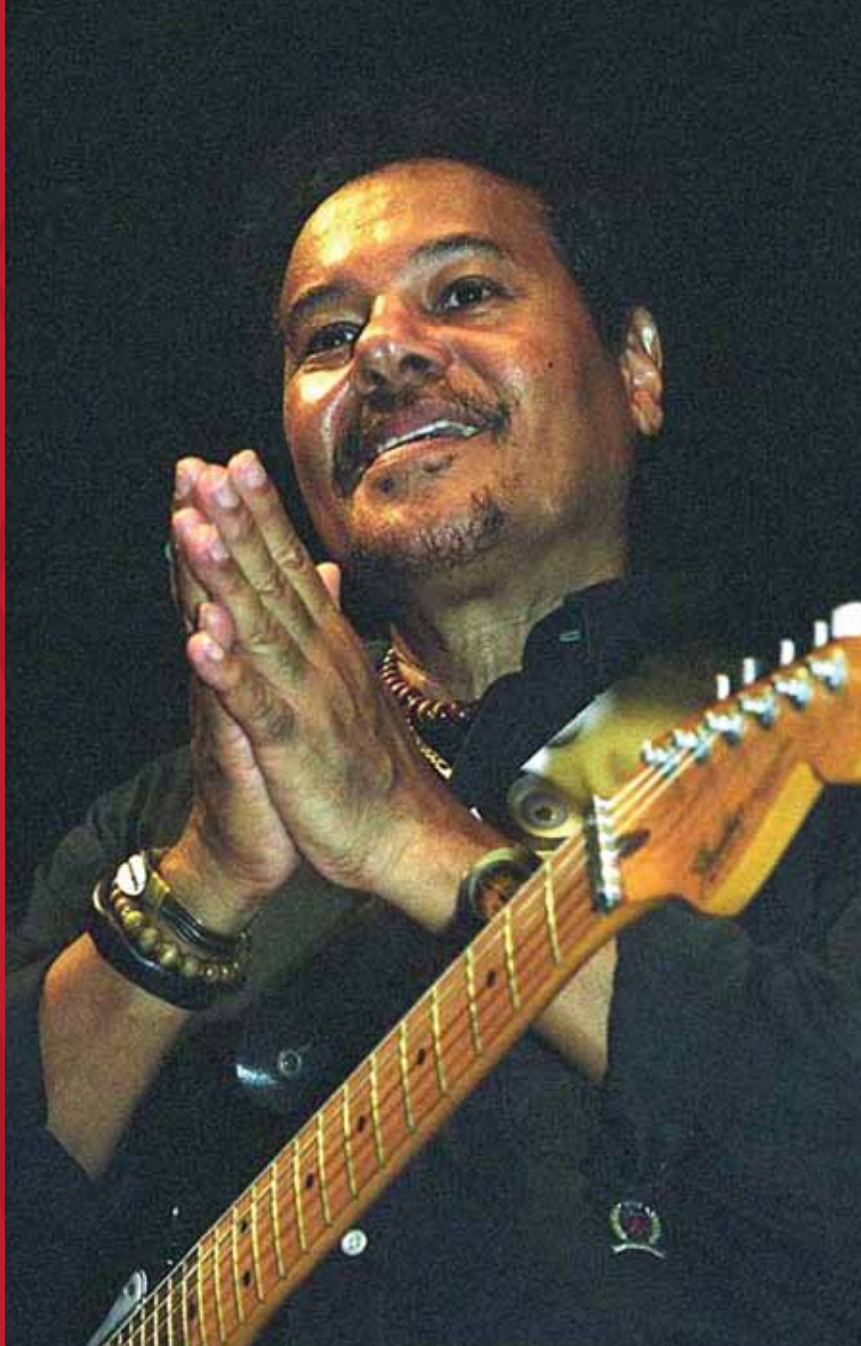
His had his first big hit that year with "Green Fig". Three years later, he had his own tent, the Young Brigade. But the urge to spread his wings was growing. In 1948, Lord Kitchener left Trinidad for London via a six-month stay in Jamaica, where he taught calypso and played to packed houses.

The arrival of calypso's newest sensation sent spirits soaring among West Indian immigrants. Through his music, Lord Kitchener became the voice of the West Indian community and a mobilising spirit for the island emigrants so far from home. Despite his London successes, Lord Kitchener stayed close to the calypso scene in Trinidad where he kept his fans dancing with such hits as "Nora, Nora" and "Trouble in Arima".

By 1963, encouraged by the Mighty Sparrow, Lord Kitchener returned to newly independent Trinidad and Tobago. His impact was immediate as he hit his stride, winning three consecutive Road March titles with "The Road", "Mama Dis Is Mas" and "My Pussin". Over the next three and a half decades, this musical genius dominated the calypso world, writing over 350 songs, running his own Calypso Revue tent, winning 10 Road March titles and composing the music that would win 18 Panorama titles and entertain generations of musicians to come.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Andre Michael Tanker
(1941–2003)



Andre Michael Tanker drew on the many cultural influences swirling through Trinidad and Tobago to create an indigenous sound, which he called Caribbean World Music, confident in its power to speak to the world on its own terms.

His willingness to experiment and take risks in his quest to create a truly Caribbean music, earned him widespread respect as one of the region's most committed, innovative and talented musicians.

Andre Tanker came from a family with a tradition in the Arts. His mother was a dancer and a descendant of Trinidad and Tobago's renowned 19th century painter Michel-Jean Cazabon. While genes may have provided his artist's instinct, Andre Tanker's deepest influences came from the culturally dynamic environment of his hometown, Woodbrook, during his formative years.

Living within earshot of Invader's panyard on one side and Beryl McBurnie Little Carib Theatre on the other, the young Tanker was inside the rhythm of the place from the beginning. At the age of seven, already a devotee of the music, he was given his first steelpan by the legendary pannist Ellie Mannette.

By the time he was a teenager at St Mary's College, he was already on the music circuit, playing the guitar, flute, cuatro, vibraphone and blue harp alongside pannist extraordinaire Ray Holman. The next step was his own band, Andre Tanker and the Flamingos. In the late 1960s, he spent time in the United States, exploring Afro-American, Latin and other types of music, including Ravi Shankar's sitar music coming in from the US west coast. Back in Trinidad, his first hit, "Forward Home" (1972), suggested that he had settled the question of identity and his life's purpose.

Over the next 30-plus years, Andre Tanker produced a body of rich and powerful music, including the musical version of Derek Walcott's *Ti-Jean and His Brothers* in New York, the soundtrack for the Sharc Productions movie, *Bim*, Mustapha Matura's *Playboy Of The West Indies* in New York, and the New York Shakespeare Festival production of *Measure for Measure*, presented in a Caribbean setting. Among his classic works are "Sayamanda", "Basement Party", "Ben Lion", "Hosanna Higher", and "Forward Home".

On Carnival Friday night, 2003, at the age of 61, Andre Tanker succumbed to a heart attack.



Dr. Eric Eustace Williams T.C.
(1911-1981)

Eric Eustace Williams wears the mantle of the Father of the Nation of modern Trinidad and Tobago. Over an unbroken period of twenty five years, from 1956 until his death in 1981, he led the government, first as Premier of colonial Trinidad and Tobago, and then as Prime Minister, guiding the country from colonialism into independence in 1962 and to the status of Republic in 1976.

He was born in Port of Spain on the 25th of September 1911, the first of the eleven children of Thomas Henry Williams, a junior civil servant, and Eliza. Professionally, Dr Williams was a historian of international repute whose seminal work, "Capitalism and Slavery" (1944), challenged the prevailing orthodoxy by identifying the role of West Indian slavery in financing Europe's Industrial Revolution and its economic development and progress.

Dr Williams' career in history had its groundings at Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain, where he won a scholarship to Oxford University, England, in 1931. He was an outstanding student at Oxford from where he graduated in 1935 with a B.A. (First Class Honours), topping the list of Oxford graduates in history. In 1938, he was awarded the Ph.D. for his thesis "The Economic Aspect of the Abolition of the West Indian Slave Trade and Slavery". Unable to secure a position as a lecturer in the United Kingdom, he turned to the United States where he was recruited to teach Social and Political Science at Howard University.

In 1944, he was appointed to the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission whose mandate to improve the social and economic problems of the Caribbean put him in direct touch with the policy and political issues of the day. The job would also bring him back to Trinidad and Tobago in 1948 as the Commission's Deputy Chairman of the Caribbean Research Council.

Almost immediately, Dr Williams made an impact on the colony's political life, attracting huge crowds to his public lectures at the place he christened "The University of Woodford Square". In 1955, the Commission decided not to renew his contract, prompting his famous declaration to "put down his bucket" in Trinidad and Tobago. In the context of the building mass movement following the attainment of adult suffrage in 1945, and his rising popularity, the decision pitchforked him into national politics as the leader of the new People's National Movement.

In September 1956, the PNM won the national elections and formed the government of Trinidad and Tobago, which he would lead until his death on 29th March, 1981. In 2002, he was awarded the nation's highest honour, the Trinity Cross.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Sir Hugh O.B. Wooding T.C.
(1904–1974)

Sir Hugh O.B. Wooding was a legal colossus who bestrode the Caribbean. He was the first Chief Justice of independent Trinidad and Tobago, the first West Indian to sit on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and the first West Indian to be named Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. His name adorns the Hugh Wooding Law School at the St Augustine campus in appreciation of his path-breaking contribution to excellence in law.

Hugh Olivier Beresford Wooding was born in Trinidad of Barbadian parentage shortly after the turn of the 19th century. At the age of 10 he won a government exhibition scholarship to attend Queen's Royal College, where his academic distinction earned him a scholarship to study law at Middle Temple Inns of Courts in London. Having become the first West Indian to place first in the English Bar Final, he was admitted, still in his early twenties, to the Bar.

Hugh Wooding returned home to practise his profession and in just over a decade became a city councillor, alderman and eventually Mayor of Port of Spain. His intellectual capacity, wide experience and dedication to the public interest led him to collect myriad professional and honorary appointments. His stewardship at the helm of several boards of directors, including two as diverse as British West Indian Airways and the Trinidad Broadcasting Company, also provided solid evidence of his impressive business acumen.

He worked throughout the Caribbean and developed a reputation as a legal luminary of great intellect, modesty and compassion, who would often forego fees for those who couldn't afford.

It was, however, in the sphere of constitutional reform that Sir Hugh, knighted by the Queen in 1963, made his most high profile contribution to Trinidad and Tobago. As chairman of the Constitution Reform Commission of the early 1970s, Sir Hugh Wooding was lauded for the thoroughness and fairness of its process of public engagement over the course of more than three years of national consultations. The diligent recording of its report, and breadth of its recommendation were widely hailed, despite their non-acceptance. In 1969, he was awarded the country's highest honour, the Trinity Cross.

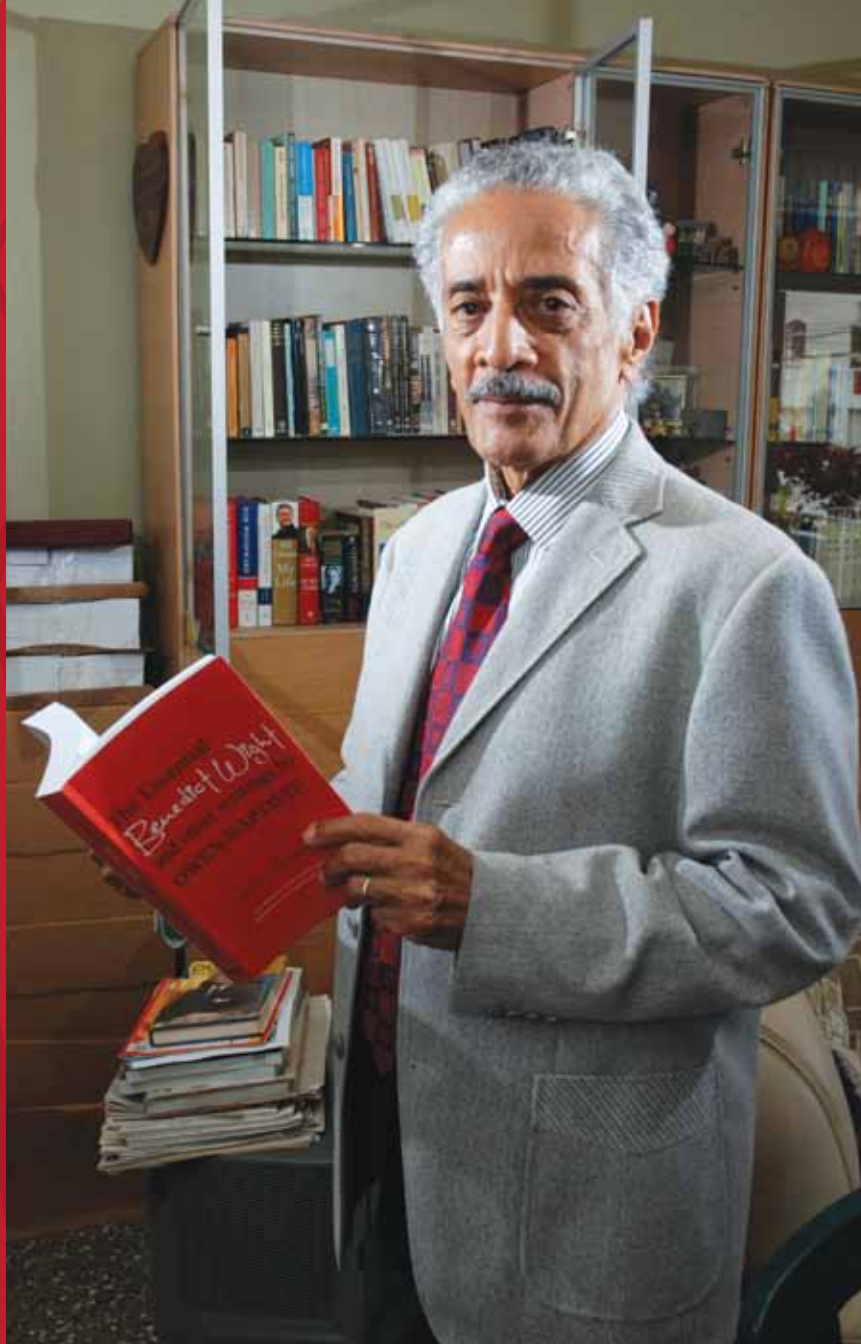
Shortly before his passing, he was appointed Chairman of another commission set up to advise the Associated States on their constitutional future. Sir Hugh Wooding died on July 26, 1974 of a heart attack, at the age of 70.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Mark Owen Baptiste
(B. 1933)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Mark Owen Baptiste is a journalist, author and media entrepreneur who helped define the shape of national journalism in post-Independent Trinidad and Tobago. He was a publishing pioneer who recognized, from early, the potential of news for content creation.

He entered journalism in 1952, at the age of 19, soon after graduating from St Mary's College. His first job was at the then British-owned Trinidad Guardian where he cut his teeth in the newsroom and editorial desk under editor Jack S. Barker.

In 1963 he moved to the Daily Mirror as Night Editor until its abrupt closure in 1966. After a year's break, he returned as editor of the new Trinidad Express, the local successor to the British-owned Mirror.

In December 1974, Owen Baptiste struck out boldly with the launch of Inprint Caribbean Ltd., an indigenous publishing house that produced People, a glossy monthly magazine. In March 1982, he returned to the Trinidad Express as Editor-in-Chief but was soon called to duty as general manager when the long-standing general manager Ken Gordon resigned in 1987 to accept a Cabinet position in the new NAR Government.

Over the next three years, Owen Baptiste guided Trinidad Express Newspapers Ltd through the major expansion that transformed it into Caribbean Communications Ltd. While there he launched a series of public initiatives including the Express Children's Fund and the Express Individual of the Year.

Still pursuing his dream of widening the platform for Caribbean writers in an exchange of information with the world, Owen Baptiste launched an e-publishing company, Caribbean Information Systems and Services (CISS), in 1994. By the end of 1996, however, he was back in the newsroom, helping to hold the reins at the Trinidad Guardian following the mass resignation of senior editorial staff.

In 1996, with CISS starved of investment, he and his wife Rhona moved to China, planning to teach for a year; they ended up staying for 12 years.

Owen Baptiste was known for his many provocative columns including Benedict Wight; No Sacred Cows; and Lies, Half-truths and Innuendoes. He has also written several books including Crisis, Duprey and The Seagulls Won't Come Down.



Helen Bhagwansingh O.R.T.T.
(B. 1940)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Helen Bhagwansingh is a business philanthropist who single-handedly transformed the family store into a commercial empire and blazed a trail for women in business.

She made her first mark in business at the age of 11 when her father Daniel Ramoutarsingh, a successful small hardware operator of San Fernando, took her out of Grant's Memorial School and gave her the bicycle repair department to run. By then, the business instincts that would guide this first-born throughout life had already been honed over the years of helping her father in the shop. For eight years, she ran the repair shop until her marriage to Hubert Bhagwansingh, a radio technician.

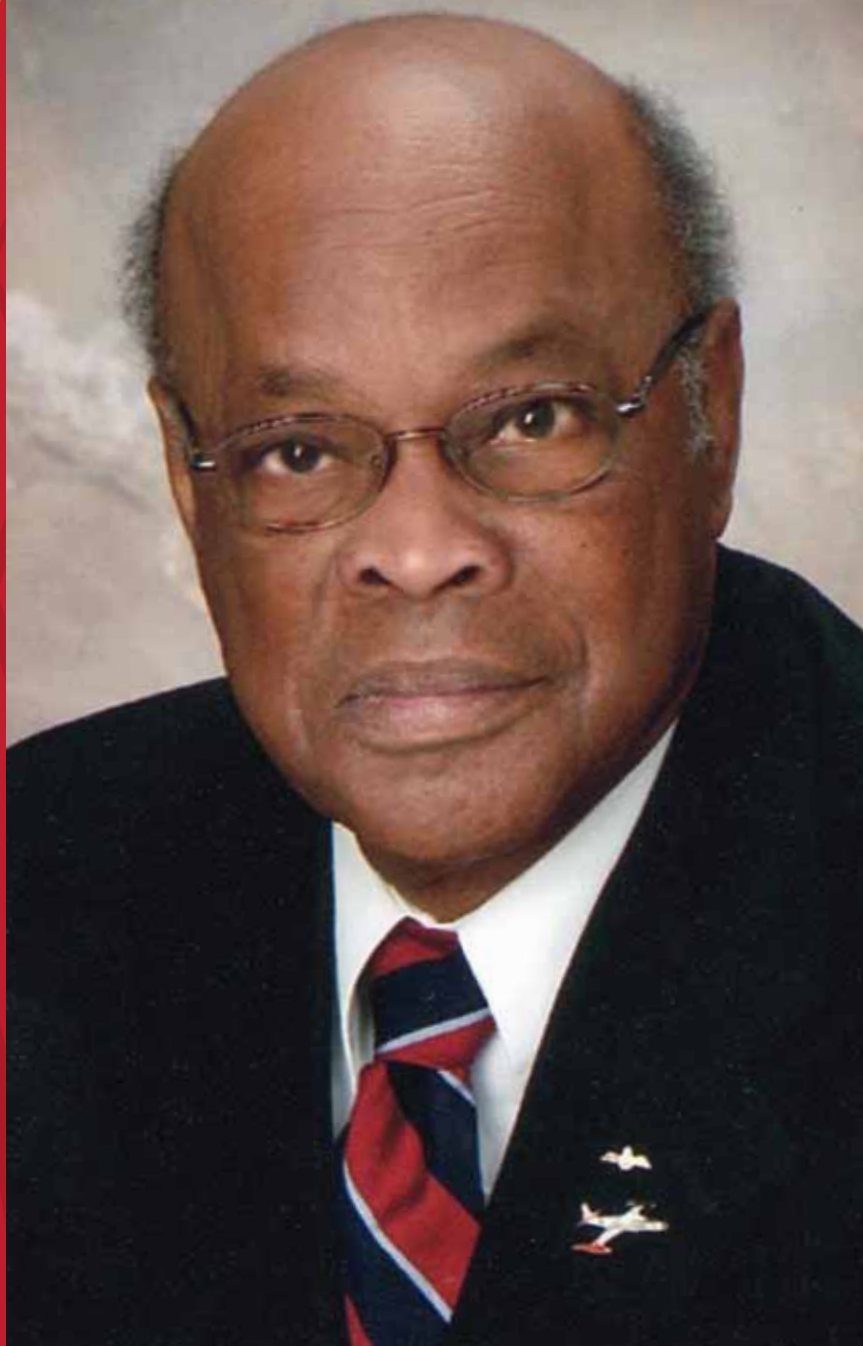
The young couple settled in Valsayn near the Drive-In cinema. When the opportunity emerged in 1969, they bought the cinema from McEneaney & Co. Ltd. Together they ran the cinema as a highly profitable venture before selling it in 1977. Just about this time, Helen Bhagwansingh made a chance return to the hardware business when her father asked her to fill in for an ill employee at his small branch outlet at Sea Lots, Port of Spain. Both building and location were entirely unprepossessing. The 20 x 20 galvanised iron shed, which sold mainly building blocks, was on the edge of the mangrove next to the country's largest dump.

For the next two years, by sheer force of personality and business savvy, the Bhagwansinghs transformed the shed into the full-fledged Ramoutarsingh Hardware before buying it from her father and changing its name to Bhagwansingh's Hardware. This marked the beginning of a journey that would make Bhagwansingh's the country's biggest name in the full-service hardware business, with outlets in Marabella and Chaguanas and a complex at Trincity. The group employs over 1,200 people.

In the late Nineties, she diversified into steel production with Dansteel and Centrin, invested in Cantrex, an aluminium extrusion manufacturer, and in Rainbow Construction.

Along the way, Helen Bhagwansingh has supported many deserving causes, the most prominent of which was a \$5 million grant that established DERPI, the Diabetes Education Research and Prevention Institute at the University of the West Indies.

In 2011, she was awarded the nation's highest honour, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



Dr Stephen Blizzard
(B. 1928)

Dr Stephen Blizzard is a pioneer and global authority on Aviation Medicine who holds the distinction of having presented the first paper in this field in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

He left Trinidad at the age of 20 on a veterinary scholarship to study at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies. From Scotland, he moved to Canada in 1958 where he enrolled in medical school at the University of Western Ontario. At the same time, he joined the University Reserve Training Plan, which eventually led him to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). In 1968, after obtaining his wings as a licensed commercial pilot, he moved to the RCAF Institute of Aviation Medicine.

His next move brought him back to Trinidad where he became a pioneering practitioner of aviation medicine and extended his love of flying to others, in his role as chairman and instructor at a flying club.

After six years, he returned to Canada in 1975 to resume his career at the Department of Civil Aviation Medicine. There, he was appointed Senior Consultant and Acting Director and served on the Aviation Medical Review Board for 12 years.

During this period when he presented the first paper in aviation medicine in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The paper titled "The Aerial Transportation of Patients" drew on his experience as an Aviation Medical Examiner in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States and Trinidad and Tobago.

As a global authority on the subject, Dr Blizzard has written several scientific papers and presented numerous lectures in Aviation Medicine throughout the world. He has also authored several Government publications in Canada including Patient Care in Flight. His combination of expertise as a flying surgeon has taken him to the boundaries of space training in Star City near Moscow where cosmonauts train and to Baikonur in Khazakstan from where Russian cosmonauts and US astronauts rocket into space.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Edwin Wilberforce Carrington T.C.
(B. 1938)

Edwin Wilberforce Carrington journeyed from the beautiful seaside community of Parlatuvier on Tobago's north coast to become the Caribbean Community's leading diplomat. As Secretary General for 18 years, he guided CARICOM and defined its place among the regional blocs of the world.

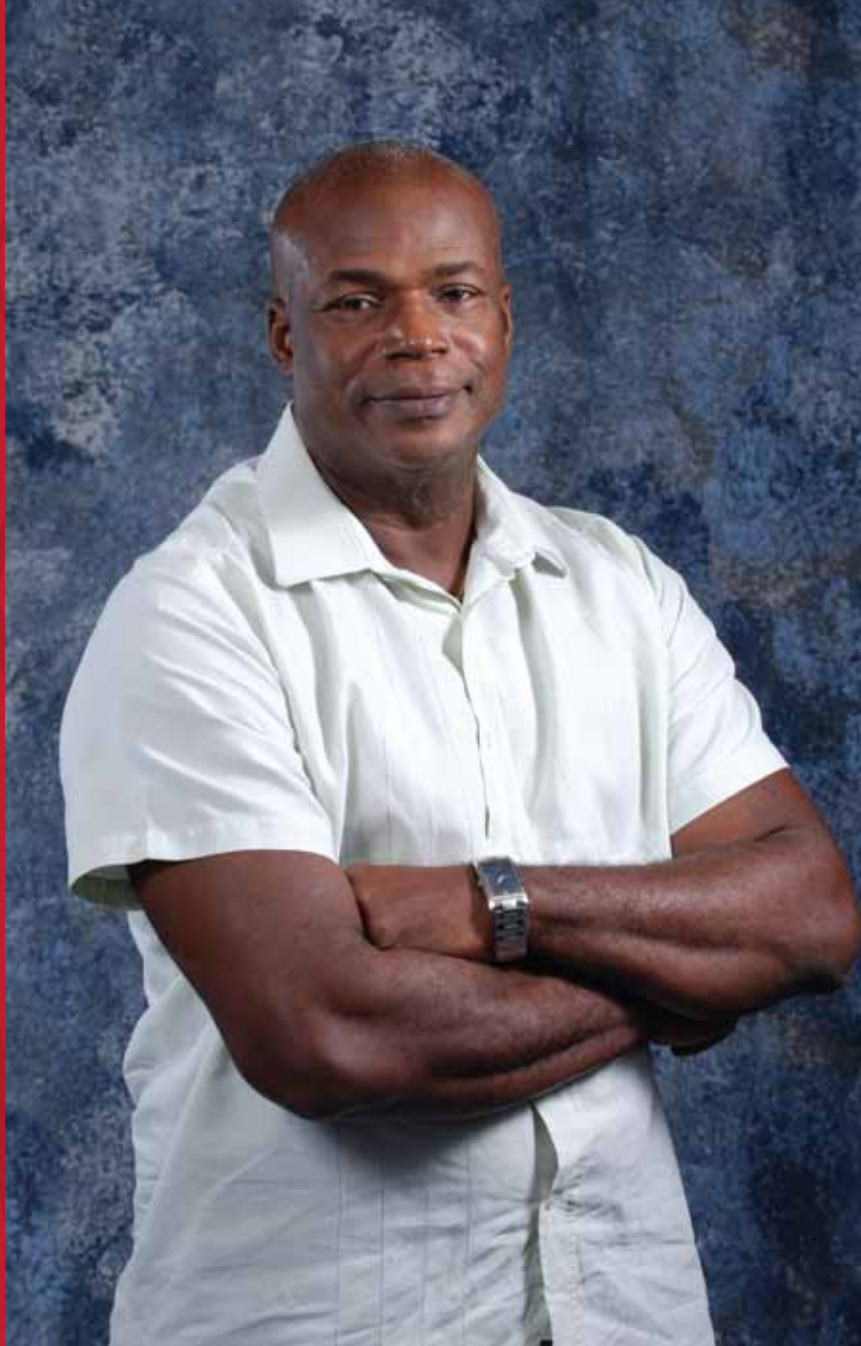
Edwin Carrington is the proud product of the Parlatuvier Anglican School, which gave him the foundation for the academic scholarship that facilitated his rapid progress to a distinguished career in economics and diplomacy.

In 1965, he graduated from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, before heading to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, for postgraduate research in Advanced Economic Theory, Economic Planning and Development. On his return to the Caribbean, he was recruited in 1970 to the post of Chief of Economics and Statistics and Director of Trade and Integration at the CARICOM Secretariat. After six years in the position, he moved to the African Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat (ACP) in Brussels as Deputy Secretary General from 1976–1985 and Secretary General 1985–1990, the first and only Caribbean person to be appointed to this position up to that time. His 13-year contribution to the integration of the ACP countries into the global order is symbolically acknowledged by the ACP's decision to name one of its facilities the Edwin Carrington Hall in his honour, at its Brussels headquarters. The experience in Brussels made him a widely supported candidate for the position of Secretary General of CARICOM on the retirement of Roderick Rainford in 1992.

Edwin Carrington went on to become the longest serving Secretary General of CARICOM when he retired in 2010, after 18 years on the job. For almost two decades, he carried the responsibility for steering the regional integration movement through a rapidly changing regional and international order. Under his stewardship, CARICOM has implemented a large number of significant initiatives including the Caribbean Court of Justice; the Caribbean Single Market; the Caribbean Development Fund; the Office of Trade Negotiations; the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre; the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality; the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and the CARICOM Competition Commission. His work has been rewarded with many accolades including the Doctor of Laws from UWI and the highest awards of both Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM — the Trinity Cross (2005) and the Order of the Caribbean Community.



*National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago*



Hasely Joachim Crawford T.C.
(B. 1950)

Hasely Joachim Crawford rose to the pinnacle of Olympic glory to become, after three decades, the only Trinidad and Tobago runner to win an Olympic gold medal. The enormity of this achievement is underscored by the modest start to the sprinting career of the self-effacing sprinter from San Fernando and the sparse resources that were at his disposal. Hasely Crawford is now one of only three track and field athletes to have been inducted into the Caribbean Hall of Fame.

Born in San Fernando in 1950, Crawford enjoyed no special athletic success while at school in his early years, although he had already joined a track and field club by the time he became a teenager. He only began running seriously as a young man of 17. A mere three years later, at 20, he had already bagged his first international sprint medal, a bronze in the 100 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1970.

In his first attempt to earn Olympic glory for himself and his country in Munich in 1972, he was stopped in his tracks by injury. Despite numerous successes at regional and international games in the intervening years, Crawford was not among the favourites for the 100m at the Olympic Games in Montreal four years later. Once the starter's pistol went off, however, Olympic history records that his 10.06 run was good enough to edge out the more highly favoured runners from Jamaica and Russia in the final. Injury again intervened to thwart him when he attempted to capture double gold in the 200m.

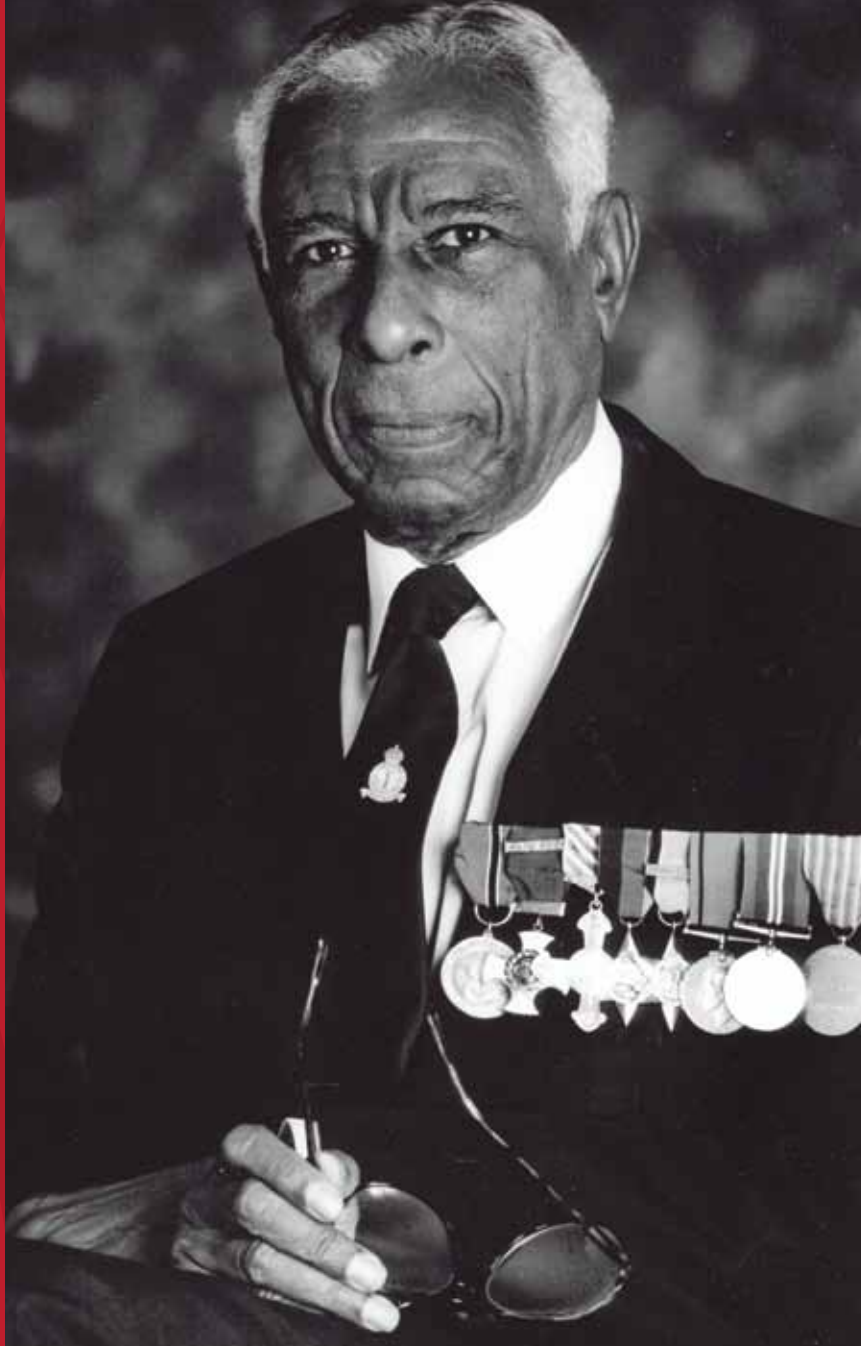
Still, Crawford demonstrated his fitness for the title of Athlete of the Millennium by continuing as a serious contender until the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1984, his fourth and last Olympics as runner. He continued to serve the country in several capacities, including as an adviser in the Ministry of Education and as coach of a Port of Spain-based athletic club, Spectrum.

In addition to the award of the Trinity Cross in 1976, official recognition of his unique achievement came in 2001 when the National Stadium in Mucurapo was re-named the Hasely Crawford Stadium.

In August of 2012, when the nation celebrated its 50th anniversary of Independence, Hasely Joachim Crawford was named among Trinidad and Tobago's 50 Sports Legends. He added another honour to his growing list in October of the same year when he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 30th annual Commonwealth Sports Awards.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Justice Phillip Louis Ulric Cross
(B. 1917)

Justice Phillip Louis Ulric Cross is in a league of his own as possibly the most decorated West Indian Squadron leader of World War II. For his "keenness and devotion to duty" and "exceptional navigation ability" he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) by Britain's Royal Air Force in 1945, adding to the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) of the previous year. The end of the war marked a new beginning for Justice Cross who went on to a distinguished career in law in Africa and Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice Phillip Louis Ulric Cross was born in Port of Spain on May 1, 1917. He attended St Mary's College and, after graduation, worked for a while with the Government on the railroad. During World War II, in 1941, he decided to volunteer for service. After a year's training in meteorology, bomb-aiming, navigation and Morse code, he was assigned to the Royal Air Force (Bomber Command Navigator) where he rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. Among his acts of exceptional service was the completion of 80 operational flights over France and Germany without a rest; the norm was 30 flights.

After the war he was released from the RAF to train as a lawyer, financed under a scheme established to assist Commonwealth personnel before their return home. He completed his legal training in 1949 and worked for four years as a BBC Talks Producer (1953-57). He then pursued his profession in law as a State Counsel in Ghana (1958-1960) and as Attorney General in West Cameroon (1961-66) where he received the Order of Merit (Gold) and Order of Valour from the Republic of Cameroon. He also served in Tanzania as Chairman of the Permanent Labour Tribunal; Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania. In Ethiopia (1972) he served as a member of the examiners board in the Faculty of Law at Haile Selassie University.

He returned to Trinidad and Tobago in 1974 and served as a High Court Judge (1974-1979), Judge of the Court of Appeal (1979-1982), and Chairman of the Law Reform Commission (1982-1983). He was later appointed High Commissioner to the United Kingdom with Accreditation to France, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland (1990-1993).

For his exemplary service, he was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of the West Indies.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



National Council Of Orisha Elders (Incorporated 1998)

The National Council of Orisha Elders marked a watershed moment in the history of Trinidad and Tobago when it emerged as the umbrella organization for representative groups of the Orisha faith. The moment marked a triumph over long years of battling for respect, recognition and an equal place around the nation's table of faiths.

For centuries, Orisha practitioners had been subjected to violence, humiliation and dispossession of their spiritual beliefs as part of the colonizing experience in the Caribbean.

Over the years, several outstanding leaders stepped forward to defend their faith and promote unity as a platform for achieving the goal of equality before the law and the dignity of respect from others. In 1998, these efforts bore fruit with the formal incorporation of the National Council of Orisha Elders under the chairmanship of Babalorisha Sam Phills. The Council brought structure and organizational capacity to the task of building a strong Orisha community.

Apart from Baba Sam, the original National Council of Orisha Elders consisted of Iyalorisha Melvina Rodney, Baba Arthur Monsegue, Iyalorisha Sylvia "Sister" Gonzalves, Archbishop Edmund Percival Meijas, Baba Jeffrey Beddoe and Baba Oludari Masetunji. The Council was formed from heads of different "shrines" or kpaales and their solidarity has helped to consolidate the Orisha faith nationally.

Along with other activists, the Council successfully championed the Orisha Marriage Act and many other initiatives that have helped to bring Orisha discourse and practice into the cultural mainstream of Trinidad and Tobago. Orisha members have done groundbreaking work in regenerating West African cultural practices such as the centuries-old River and Ocean festivals and global conferences on ideas and issues surrounding African Sacred Science.



*National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago*



Meiling Esau
(B. 1946)

Meiling Esau fashioned a Caribbean aesthetic out of the fragments of culture thrown together by Caribbean history. From the presences of Europe, Africa and Asia in America, she has created a distinctive look that is as clean and defined as Caribbean surf on a sunny day.

Meiling, as she is known in the fashion world, grew up in St Augustine, surrounded by fabric and sewing accessories of every kind. Her mother, Evelyn Achong, was one of the most skilled seamstresses of her day, with a sharp eye for detail and a refined sense of style. Her mother's workroom was the the young Meiling's design laboratory.

In the early 1970s, Meiling left Trinidad for London to study at the Lucie Clayton School of Design. It was a heady time to be in London, with its creativity of individual expression.

Back home, she launched her own business, Meiling Inc. Ltd in 1982, in a renovated garage with two seamstresses. Among Meiling's first big clients were companies looking for practical uniforms with Caribbean chic. In 2005, she designed the opening ceremony outfits for Trinidad and Tobago athletes at the Commonwealth Games.

Meiling's designs hit the international spotlight in 1998 when one of her top models, Wendy Fitzwilliam, took the Miss Universe title. In 2011, the Meiling name was back in the news when her intern Anya Ayoung Chee emerged Season 9 winner of the wildly popular fashion reality series Project Runway. Her designs have also found a space in the entertainment market with performers such as 3Canal and Machel Montano turning to her for their fashion statements.

Over time, Meiling has become an ambassador for the fashion industry of Trinidad and Tobago. In September 2012, she debuted at London Fashion Week and got rave reviews at Caribbean Fashion Week in Jamaica. In 2010 and 2011, her work was presented at the prestigious Plataforma K in Colombia. At home, the annual Meiling Collection remains a much-anticipated staple on the fashion calendar. A risk-taker, in 2008 she collaborated with clothing retailer Micles in designing the MSquared line for the mass market. More recently, she has branched out into Meiling Complete, a line of room scent diffusers, candles and body creams. For her contribution to the development of an indigenous aesthetic and the fashion industry, Meiling was honoured with the Chaconia Medal (Silver) in 2008.



*National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago*



Slinger Francisco
(The Mighty Sparrow)
(B. 1935)

Slinger Francisco, the Mighty Sparrow, is a revered entertainer who is universally celebrated as the Calypso King of the World for his legendary body of work, his impact on the art form, his unrivalled international appeal and enduring star power. Among his peers, he is respected for his stand in defence of calypsonians.

Brought to Trinidad as a baby from his birthplace of Grenada, the Mighty Sparrow was just 20 when he took the calypso world by storm. The immortal "Jean and Dinah" made a clean sweep, winning the 1956 Calypso Monarch and Road March competitions and establishing a new calypso order.

Stung by the paltry prize of \$40 compared to the rich business sponsorship of beauty queen competitions, the Mighty Sparrow put his grouse into song with "Carnival Boycott" and stayed out of the Calypso Monarch competition for three years. With his soaring popularity, he succeeded in wresting financial and other concessions of benefit to all calypsonians. The consciousness that he brought is credited with the launch of the Carnival Development Committee as a support agency for Carnival interests, including calypsonians, steelbands and mas bands.

He broke more new ground in 1958 when he received the first cash prize ever for a Road March title with his calypso "P.A.Y.E." from the CDC. Over his career, the Mighty Sparrow won eight Calypso Monarch crowns, eight Road March titles, countless other competitions, and released over 70 albums covering a broad range of music that extended to R&B covers and gospelypso.

With his socio-political commentary and witty take on public affairs, the voice of the Mighty Sparrow became one of the most influential in post-Independent Trinidad and Tobago. The man in the street tuned in to national, regional and international affairs through his interpretations in such calypsos as "Federation", "Dan is the Man", "Capitalism Gone Mad" and "Phillip, My Dear". Audiences the world over were seduced by his salacious "Mae Mae", "Saltfish" and "Congo Man". Universal respect came his way with his refusal to perform in apartheid South Africa, urging instead that the UN "Invade South Africa" (1985).

In 1987, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, which he promptly parlayed into the spicy "Dr Bird". Slinger Francisco is also the recipient of two national awards, the Humming Bird Silver Medal and the Chaconia Gold Medal, and is immortalized in bronze at the entrance to the city of Port of Spain, whose rhythm he changed forever.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Geoffrey Holder
(B. 1930)



Geoffrey Holder is a gifted artist whose extraordinary assortment of talents has earned him the respect and admiration of people around the world.

Dancer, choreographer, actor, painter, writer, director, vocalist and voice artist are among the credits of this virtuoso who was born in Port of Spain on August 1, 1930. He received his primary school education at Tranquillity in Woodbrook and spent his high school years at Queen's Royal College. He was seven years old when he joined the dance troupe of his older brother Boscoe, who ranks among Trinidad and Tobago's top painters. When Boscoe moved to London in the 1940s, the teenaged Geoffrey became director of the Holder Dance Company.

Geoffrey Holder's big break came in 1952 when American choreographer Agnes de Mille saw him dance in St Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. She immediately invited him to New York where he taught dance for the next two years at the Katherine Dunlap School of Dance. On December 30, 1954, the six foot-six inch dancer with the booming, cavernous voice made his Broadway debut at the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre in House of Flowers, a musical with a Caribbean theme.

The show was a huge success, running for 165 performances. For Geoffrey Holder, however, the biggest reward came in meeting his future wife, the dancer Carmen De Lavallade. From 1955 through 1956 Holder was a principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. It was the first of a career on stage that would include the role of Lucky in the all-Black cast of the revival of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

Geoffrey Holder's acting career began in 1962 with the British film *All Night Long*, a modern remake of Shakespeare's *Othello*. The movie *Doctor Doolittle* followed in 1967 with him in the role of Willie Shakespeare, leader of the natives of Sea-Star Island. Among his best known roles are the heavy "Baron Samedi" in the James Bond movie *Live and Let Die* and "Punjab" in *Annie*.

In 1975, Geoffrey Holder was awarded two Tony Awards for direction and costume design for the Broadway musical *The Wiz* (1975), the all-Black musical version of *The Wizard of Oz*. As a choreographer, he created dance pieces for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, among others.

Although he lives in New York, the Caribbean surrounds him. He has produced books on Caribbean folklore and cooking and keeps in touch with region, especially Haiti, one of the passions of his life.

In 1972, Trinidad and Tobago honoured him with the Hummingbird Medal (Gold).



Ray Holman
(B. 1944)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Ray Holman has an assured place among the all-time greats of steelband arrangers and composers. He has enjoyed extraordinary longevity at the top of his game and holds the distinction of being the only arranger among the current crop to have participated in the very first Panorama competition in 1963.

The pannist was a mere 17 years old in 1961 when Ellie Mannette's Invaders Steel Orchestra recorded "Ray's Saga," a tune that the teenager had composed for the pan. Under the watchful eyes of his mentor, Holman would go on to capture the Solo Ping Pong title in the 1964 Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival at age 20, a feat unmatched for a three full decades.

Having come into pan with the band at age 13, Holman eventually became the arranger for Invaders, specialising in classical pieces but treating as well with the calypso arrangements necessary for participation in the annual Panorama competition. In 2013, he took San Fernando's Skiffle to victory in the South competition, placing fifth in the national finals. But conformity must have sat uncomfortably on the shoulders of this pioneering spirit. In 1972, the Starlift steelband, which Holman had founded nine years earlier and had guided to a handful of top three Panorama finishes, entered the competition with a calypso tune composed by him. Despite predictable opposition from the conservatives who argued for the monopoly of the traditional calypsonians, "Pan on the Move" earned Starlift third place and Holman a coveted place in steelband history.

Starting with that daring sortie down a road until then not travelled, Holman, who holds a UWI Bachelor's degree in Spanish and History, continues to compose "own tunes" and has brought his compositional talents to a number of lesser known bands. The experience has allowed him to develop, in the words of one commentator, "a clearly identifiable, even unique musical voice and style (which) transcends the boundaries of the steelpan and the steel orchestra." Thanks to Holman, steelbands now have a growing number of composers who have embarked on the "own tune" trail blazed by him, one of them having enjoyed multiple Panorama success.

Holman gradually attained "a level of harmonic sophistication reached by few other calypso composers" and leveraged his command of the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic content of pan music into a successful career as an international artist. He has arranged for, performed and recorded with bands and individual musicians on several continents, and has been a featured performer in film and television and at venues such as Madison Square Garden, the Super Bowl and the St Lucia Jazz Festival. He has also regularly conducted workshops at American universities and at the end of the 1990s had a three-year stint as Distinguished Visiting Artist in the University of Washington's Ethnomusicology programme.

In 1991, he composed the highly acclaimed score for the Crossroads Theatre Company's performance of Black Orpheus in New Jersey.

In 1988, Trinidad and Tobago honoured him with the Hummingbird Medal (Silver).



Wilfred Sidney Knox
(B. 1924)



Sidney Knox is a founder of the modern Caribbean conglomerate and a pre-eminent member of the indigenous business class whose name echoes across the Caribbean as a symbol of free market enterprise.

He was born on an estate in Gran Couva in the Montserrat Hills of Central Trinidad. His high school years were spent in San Fernando at Presentation College. At age 17, soon after graduating, he left for Canada where he signed up for pilot training with the Royal Air Force. He saw active service during World War II as part of the Sixth Airborne Division, crossing the Rhine in the dangerous mission of carrying supplies and troops for the Allied countries.

At the end of his service, he returned home hoping to be employed as a pilot with British West Indian Airways. With no opening available, he eventually took up a job, first with businessman Joseph Fernandes learning the basics of business from the ground up, and then with Neal and Massy as a sales representative. It was the beginning of a career that would carry him all the way to the top as Chief Executive and Chairman of the Neal and Massy Group. Under his leadership, the conglomerate expanded horizontally and vertically, building itself out as a total business institution. Recognizing the imperative of new markets for growth, Sidney Knox championed the cause of Caribbean Free Trade Association (Carifta).

He was an equally strong advocate for the Point Lisas Port and Industrial Estate, serving as one of the four negotiators of the South Chamber of Industry and Commerce in securing State support for it.

As chief executive of Neal and Massy, he led the group through the ups and downs of the oil boom and bust of the 1970s and 1980s, ever prepared to take the opportunity or the tough decision as needed. His leadership style was defined by the focused attitude that had kept him alive as a war-time pilot on the frontlines.

Committed to the development of a professional class of business executives, he supported and invested in the Institute of Business, UWI, (now the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business). In 1979, he launched the Neal and Massy Foundation, long before corporate social responsibility became a buzzword.

His contribution to national development has been acknowledged by an honorary doctorate from the University of Trinidad and Tobago and honoured with the Chaconia Medal (Gold) by the government of Trinidad and Tobago.



Anil Kokaram
(B. 1968)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Professor Anil Kokaram is an Academy Award-winning engineer and software developer whose work revolutionized the post-production process in movies to help produce the spectacular visual effects of some of today's biggest box office hits.

Born into the Kokaram family of Sangre Grande in east Trinidad, Anil Kokaram grew up in a family headed by parents who were highly respected educationists. He attended Hillview College in El Dorado, where his father, Richard, was the principal. After graduating in 1986, he left for England to study engineering at the University of Cambridge. In 1993, he was awarded the Ph.D. based on his research in signal processing and the development of algorithms for the restoration of motion pictures.

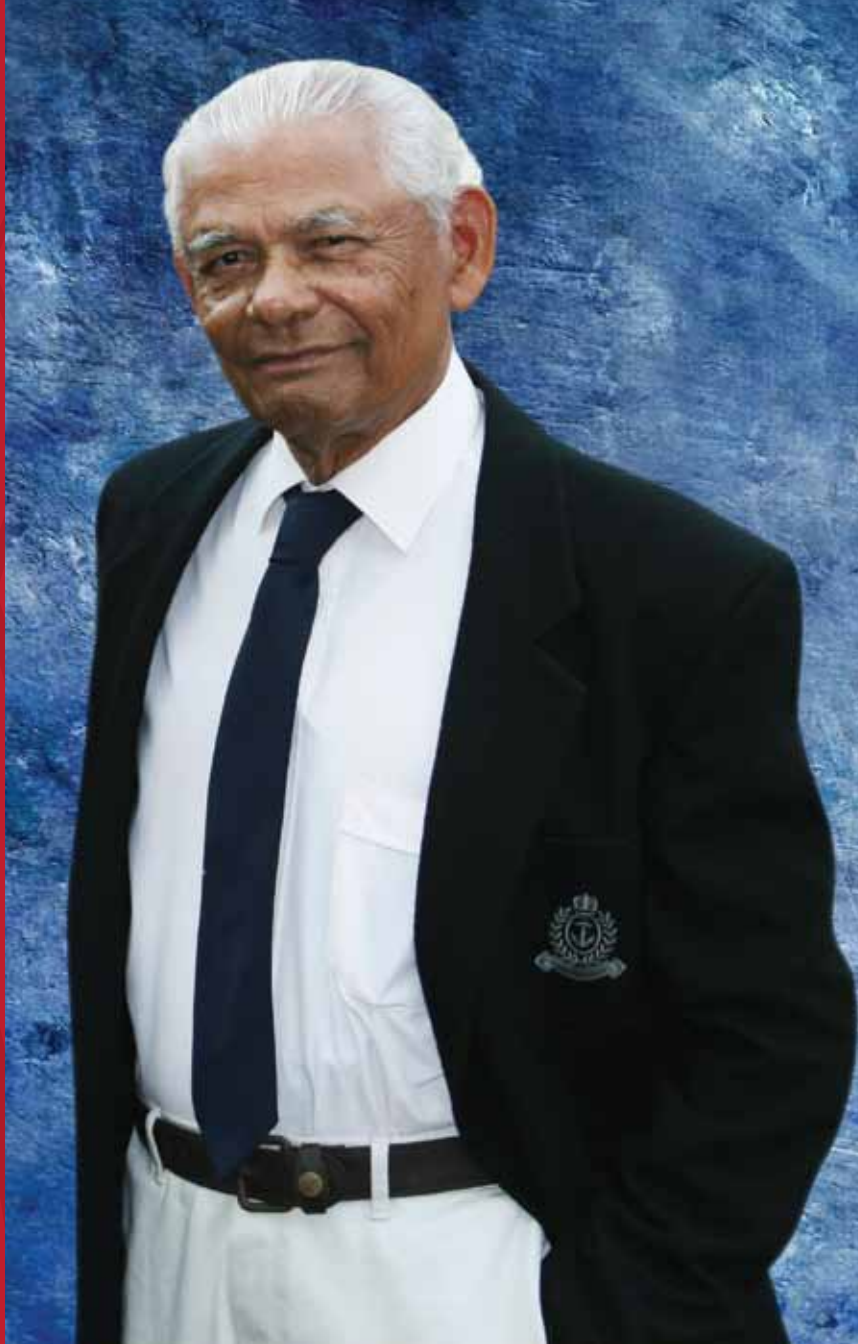
For the next three years, he worked as a consultant with Daimler Benz in Stuttgart, measuring particle flows using his motion estimation techniques. From there he moved to Trinity College in Dublin where he found support for his own work while teaching. His major breakthrough occurred while working as a consultant with The Foundry, a software effects house where he has developed a pioneering collaboration with Dr Bill Collis, Simon Robinson and Ben Kent. Together, they developed the process to automate film restoration, opening the way for solving problems that had long plagued moviemakers.

In 2007, Prof Kokaram and his colleagues at the Foundry received the Academy Award (Scientific and Engineering) for their work in developing motion estimation technology for the cinema industry. The technology has been used in such major box office hits as X-Men, Spiderman and Lord of the Rings.

He went on to launch his own start-up company, Green Parrot Pictures, to develop software solutions for movies such as image stabilization. In 2011, he sold Green Parrot Pictures to Google's online video service YouTube for an undisclosed sum.

With the acquisition, he moved to Silicon Valley as a Tech Lead in Google's Chrome Media Group. There, he leads a team responsible for video quality and for developing video processing algorithms for quality improvement, as he seeks the next big breakthrough in the increasingly mass market of video producers and consumers. He also expressed an interest in developing software to automate cricket highlights.

Professor Kokaram has published widely and has written a book, Motion Picture Restoration: Digital Algorithms for Artefact Suppression in Degraded Motion Picture Film and Video.



Harold Charles La Borde T.C.
(B. 1933)

Harold La Borde is a pioneering adventurer who lifted the hearts of all Trinidad and Tobago with his successful circumnavigation of the world in 1973. Pursuing a dream of Herculean proportions, he set sail from Trinidad in 1969 with his wife Kwailan as first mate, and their five-year-old son, Pierre. Over a period of four exciting but challenging years, the La Bordes sailed around the world on the Hummingbird II, a vessel built by Harold La Borde's own two hands.

The journey was a boyhood dream from the days when his father would take him down to Carenage for a sea bath during a break from classes at Rosary Boys RC or Belmont Boys Secondary. With his eyes glued to the horizon, young Harold began to dream of the day when he might conquer the oceans.

The jobs he got after leaving school were tailor-made for his dream. His first was an apprenticeship in drafting and cartography at the Government Printery. This was followed by a job as a geological draughtsman at Dominion Oil Company.

By then, he was deep into research on boat building and the oceans of the world. When he completed his first vessel, a 26-foot ketch called the Humming Bird I, Kwailan La Borde left her job to set sail with him to England. The boat was eventually sold to raise funds to finance their next, major boat-building enterprise.

After a stint working in Nigeria, the family returned to Trinidad in 1963. Harold La Borde immediately got down to building another vessel, a 40-foot ketch which he named Hummingbird II. It took three years to build, following which he rented it out for another three years, raising money to finance the epic journey around the world. On February 2, 1969, the La Bordes set sail with their five-year-old son, Pierre, between them. Their second son, Andre, was born in New Zealand.

In 1973, the La Bordes, having made history with their journey around the world, returned home to a heroes' welcome. The Government bought the Hummingbird II as a piece of national history. The La Bordes went on to build a third boat, Hummingbird III, for yet another trip around the world. Their voyages are documented in Harold La Borde's *An Ocean to Ourselves* (1962); *All Oceans Blue* and *Lonely Oceans South* as well as *Wind, Sea and Faith* by Kwailan La Borde.

In 1973, in honour of their historic journey around the world, Harold and Kwailan La Borde were awarded the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Colin Laird
(B. 1924)

Colin Laird revolutionized the design of public spaces in Trinidad and Tobago by transforming the art of architecture into an act of democratic inclusion.

In places throughout the Caribbean, his designs stand out for the ways in which they welcome people, encourage engagement, sit easily with the land and invoke harmony of purpose.

Designing public buildings for people has been Colin Laird's mission from the moment he arrived in Trinidad as a young architect in 1952. Port of Spain, the capital, was a city teeming with the energies of impending change. The old colonial order had entered its final decade but everywhere, its intimidating authority and aloof power stared from the colonial design of public buildings.

Having settled into his own architectural firm, Laird dedicated himself to the goal of altering the balance of power between the State and the people through the design of public spaces. Within four years of arriving in Trinidad, he was causing a stir with the extraordinary and modern design that won him the first prize in the Queen's Hall design competition. Its inverted catenary roof marked a radical break from the architecture of the time.

Over the years, he continued challenging the status quo and developed a reputation for progressive designs that aligned people and spaces, form and purpose. Two stand-out spaces in this regard are the Brian Lara Promenade (1995) that transformed the heart of the capital, and the National Library and Information Systems Authority (NALIS) Building (2002).

Colin Laird has designed hundreds of other public spaces including the Hasely Crawford Stadium and Jean Pierre Complex, and produced designs for the restoration of several architectural treasures of Trinidad and Tobago. Among these was the Lion House of Chaguanas which achieved international recognition in V.S. Naipaul's House for Mr Biswas. He has also been at the forefront of designing green buildings for tropical environments.

In 2001, Colin Laird was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in recognition of his outstanding achievements. His peers have also honoured his contribution with the award of the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects President's Gold Medal in 2005.

In June 2012, an exhibition of his work was launched to critical acclaim at the National Museum in observance of Trinidad and Tobago's 50th anniversary of Independence.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Brian Charles Lara T.C., O.C.C.
(B. 1969)

Brian Charles Lara is a colossus of Test cricket who is regarded by many as the king of modern batsmen and embraced at home as the Prince of Port of Spain.

It is a fitting tribute to this dapper left-hander that the impressive array of records he has held over the years is unlikely ever to be broken by any one batsman. However, after his premature withdrawal from the Test arena, the 44-year-old is still the holder of two of cricket's most coveted batting achievements. And in Wisden Brian Lara also still appears beside a third accomplishment for scoring the most runs in a single Test over.

Brian Charles Lara was born in Santa Cruz, at the foothills of the Northern Range, on May 2, 1969. It was an era when the magnificent West Indies unit that had developed under Sir Frank Worrell was beginning to lose its lustre. Lara, now widely regarded as one of the finest batsmen ever, first came into the game when he was just seven years old. He would eventually earn a place on the regional team just a few years before the fortunes of the world-beating squad of the late Seventies and Eighties began to wane. By the end of the Nineties, Lara had produced a series of astonishing batting feats and risen to the helm of the team. So outstanding were his individual achievements that it would perhaps have been too much to ask for the performances of the sides he led to match them.

Prepared from his earliest years as a schoolboy player to be a captain, Lara remains the only player in West Indian cricket history to have been appointed skipper of the regional team three times. And in 2004 he scored 400 not out against England in Antigua to become the only player in cricket history to reclaim the record for the highest individual innings. Coming a full 10 years after his 501 not out for Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1994, that innings also gave him a truly unique record. No other batsman in cricket history has ever scored 500, 400, 300, 200 and 100 in separate first-class innings.

Lara was inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame in 2012. He is one of only three cricketers who received the prestigious BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year and he also earned himself the Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World Award in 1994 and 1995.

At home, he was awarded the Trinity Cross in 1994 and the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2008.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Earl Lovelace
(B. 1935)

Earl Lovelace celebrates the music of the Trinidad idiom in novels that assert the literary validity of the lives of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. For over 50 years, this award-winning writer has maintained a running relationship with the society, channeling it back to itself, in language that it understands by heart.

Having grown up in close-knit communities in Tobago, Toco, Belmont and Morvant in Port of Spain, Earl Lovelace writes out of a life-long fascination with community life. His artist's sensibility is keyed to the nuances of relationships that shape the personalities of the people and frame the romance of each place. He also writes out of the rich knowledge of rural communities that he acquired in working with the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture.

His first novel, *While Gods Are Falling*, was written while he worked as a forest ranger in Valencia. With its search for meaning and value beyond the material, it had an immediate impact in newly independent Trinidad and Tobago and was awarded the winner of the BP Independence Literature Award.

It was followed by *The Schoolmaster*, set in rural Cumaca, and explored the conflicts between progress and self-affirmation, another theme of the times. His popularity exploded with his next book, *The Dragon Can't Dance* (1979), which introduced him to a global audience and established his reputation as one of the most important writers of post-Independent Caribbean.

Set in Laventille, Port of Spain, *Dragon* captivated readers with the music of the Lovelace's prose as it explored the live issues of belonging and identity. It was written while Lovelace was in the United States where he studied at Howard University and at Johns Hopkins University (M.A., English). In 1980, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent the year as a visiting writer at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

His next book, *The Wine of Astonishment* (1982), was released to critical acclaim. With *Salt*, he won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, 1997. In 2011, *Is Just a Movie* took the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature and the Grand Prize for Literature in Guadeloupe. In 1988, he was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold).

Watching and writing from his permanent base in Trinidad and Tobago, Earl Lovelace chronicles, with optimism, the movement of a society still trying to find its way in the world.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Elliott “Ellie” Mannette
(b. 1926)



Elliott “Ellie” Mannette stands in the pantheon of Pan as the Father of the Modern Steelpan for his scientific breakthroughs that changed the course of music history.

The innovations that created the steelpan were the result of a community ferment in which Ellie Mannette found himself at the age of 11. That was when he moved from his birthplace of Sans Souci on Trinidad’s northeast coast to Woodbrook, just outside Port of Spain, and landed at the heart of the forces that would give birth to the steelpan.

His journey began with an introduction to Carnival when he performed with the New Town Cavalry Tamboo Bamboo Band, which would later claim a place in steelband history as Alexander’s Ragtime Band. In 1940, at age 13, he helped to organize a group called the Oval Boys, predecessor of Invaders Steel Orchestra which he led for almost three decades.

The 1940s was a period of intense and inspired music experimentation as groups of mainly teenaged boys from east to west Port of Spain competed under threat of jail. The colonial authorities’ war-time ban on drumming, tamboo bamboo and public noise pushed them to experiment with metal paint pans and biscuit tins which yielded the discovery of how pitch might vary depending on where the metal was struck.

Ellie Mannette’s major innovation came soon after World War II. A machinist by trade, he sank the top of a 55-gallon oil drum, creating more space for cleaner notes. The result was the prototype instrument for today’s single tenor pan.

His tuning made Invaders’ mellow tone the most sought-after quality for bands in the 1950s, with its tuners spreading Mannette’s innovations to other bands. He also introduced rubber on the tip of pan-sticks to help acquire this tone.

The breakthrough opened the door to greater experimentation in paving the way for steel orchestras. Ellie Mannette continued his work, bringing a sophisticated approach to pan tuning by using a stroboscope to analyze and shape the harmonic blend.

In 1967, Ellie Mannette migrated to the United States where his work continues under the University Tuning Project at West Virginia University, consolidating the science and pedagogy of the pan making and tuning process.

In 2000, he was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Silver) for outstanding cultural achievement.



Robert Montano
(B. 1921)

Robert Montano is a visionary leader who pioneered the development of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate, led the effort that launched the iconic Naparima Bowl and initiated the South Chamber of Commerce as an agency of southern and national development.

A businessman with a powerful commitment to national development, Robert Montano has left his mark on the cultural and economic development of modern Trinidad and Tobago.

Born into a prominent business family of San Fernando, Robert Montano's interests extended far beyond business and into the Arts, community development and national progress. As a youth, he sang in the choir at St Paul's Anglican Church and produced a number of operettas with the Southern Amateur Dramatic Society. When World War II broke out, he left home at the age of 22 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he served as a Flying Officer, Navigator in bomber command (1943-1947).

After the war, he returned home and became even more active in the cultural and economic affairs of the country's second city of San Fernando. A burst of cultural activity in the city, triggered by the Music Festival of 1948, was the catalyst for the lobby for a concert hall. In 1962, under the management of a steering committee headed by Robert Montano, Naparima Bowl came to fruition, four days before Independence.

Alongside this, Robert Montano led another initiative that would have profound implications for the future of Trinidad and Tobago. Having convened the meeting that led to the formation of the South Chamber of Commerce, he set about outlining his vision for development that aligned the prosperity of the south to that of the nation. He identified a deep-water harbour as core to the development of south Trinidad and championed the development of a heavy industrial estate as the basis of its viability. With the Chamber's agreement, Robert Montano led the team that planned, negotiated and launched Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation (PLIPDECO), paving the way for the birth of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate. In the 1970s, with the State willing to embrace the role as facilitator and investor, Robert Montano, in his role as President of PLIPDECO, passed the company to the government of Trinidad and Tobago at the nominal price of \$15.

In 1975, he was honoured with the Hummingbird Medal (Gold) for his contribution to the nation.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul T.C.
(B. 1932)



Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul is a world-acclaimed writer and the first Trinidad-born person to be honoured with the award of a Nobel Prize.

Hailed as one of the finest writers in the English language, Sir Vidia drew deeply from his observation and understanding of Trinidad society for the early works of fiction that brought him to the attention of the literary world.

Right from the beginning, V.S. Naipaul was recognised as a writer of quality. His first novel, *Mystic Masseur*, was awarded the 1958 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, which is given for the best work of literature by a Commonwealth writer 35 years and under. However, it was *House for Mr Biswas* (1961) that convinced the literary establishment and launched his international reputation. His fourth published book, *House for Mr Biswas*, is regarded as a twentieth century masterpiece.

The breakthrough came just 11 years after he had arrived in London on a scholarship to University College, Oxford, from Queen's Royal College in Port of Spain. He had carried with him 18 years of observation and experience of growing up in colonial Trinidad that would provide the grist for half of his body of fiction and several works of non-fiction.

In recent years, Sir Vidia has become more of a travel writer, applying his penetrating eye and precise pen to people and societies around the world. Along the way, he has collected a string of honours, including a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 1989, and a series of awards. At the apex of his collection of awards stands the Nobel Prize for Literature, 2001. In its citation, the Nobel Committee said the prize was being awarded to him "for having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories".

V.S. Naipaul has also been honoured in his own homeland. In 1989, Trinidad and Tobago awarded him its highest honour of the Trinity Cross. In April 2007, he was the guest of honour of the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies where his contribution to Caribbean literature and letters was celebrated over the course of an entire week.

He has also been given honorary doctorates from Cambridge University and Columbia University in New York, and honorary degrees from the universities of Cambridge, London and Oxford. Throughout it all, V.S. Naipaul has kept to the singular pursuit of writing.



Horace Ové, C.B.E
(B. 1939)

Horace Ové has written his name into the history books as the first black British film maker to direct a feature-length film, bringing to his work a sensibility chiselled out of his experience of growing up in Belmont, Trinidad.

In 1960, with Trinidad and Tobago on the cusp of Independence, 21-year-old Horace Ové left Trinidad for England to study painting, photography and interior decorating. A chance opportunity as a film extra in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's 1963 film *Cleopatra* changed the course of his career. Captivated by film, he enrolled at the London School of Film Technique and began experimenting with his own productions. He quickly gravitated towards filling the void surrounding the Black experience in England, particularly the Afro-Caribbean presence. With the issue of race looming largest, Ové began his exploration with a short film titled *Baldwin's Nigger*, in which the African-American novelist James Baldwin discusses the Black experience and identity in Britain and America. His next film, *Reggae*, took him inside the West Indian experience in Britain. This 1971 documentary charted the music's popularity outside Jamaica and plumbed its socio-political meaning and impact. The film caught the attention of the BBC, which broadcast it and commissioned other work from Ové including *King Carnival* and episodes for *The World About Us* series.

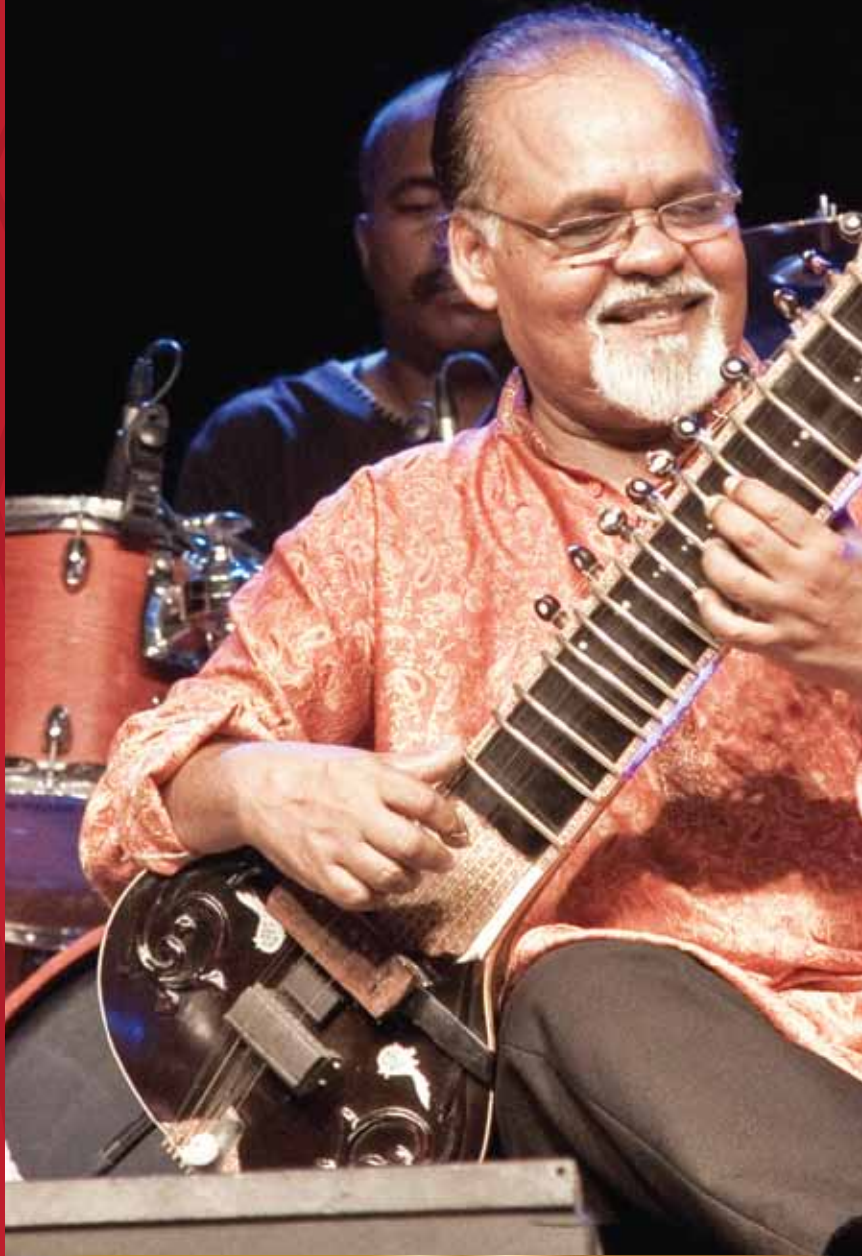
Horace Ové rose to international acclaim with *Pressure*, a film about a London teenager who becomes involved in the Black Power movement of the 1970s. Its scenes of police brutality and heated racial conflict proved too much for its backers, the British Film Institute, which banned it for two years before releasing it.

Ové's body of work includes episodes for the British television series *Empire Road*, and several documentaries. *The Equalizer*, a film about the 1919 Amritsar massacre in India, won two Indian Academy Awards. In 2003, he released *Dream to Change the World*, a documentary based on the life and work of Trinidad-born political and social activist John La Rose. A few years later, he came to Trinidad to direct Francis Escayg's movie *The Ghost of Hing King Estate* (2007).

That same year, Horace Ové received the title of Commander of the Most Excellent Order (C.B.E) from Queen Elizabeth for his contribution to the British film industry. In 2012, he was honoured in his home country with a T&T Film Pioneer Award from the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Mungal Patasar
(B. 1948)



Mungal Patasar is an internationally celebrated musician who has created a unique genre of world music that draws on all the elements of the musical culture of the Caribbean. His life's work has been a complete dedication to music. He was born in 1946 into a musical family in Trinidad. Both his parents were singers and his father sang classical Indian music and his brothers were drummers and singers. By the age of eight, Patasar was playing harmonium, dholak and dhantal, and played clarinet in his school's military band.

Mungal Patasar got his first sitar at age 27 and secretly practised for eight years. In 1978, he participated in, and won, the Mastana Bahar talent competition. In 1979, he turned to Indo Calypso-Jazz. A few years later, at age 40, he went to India to pursue his studies in sitar at Banaras Hindu University. India was a whole new experience for Mungal Patasar, with a gruelling training schedule and visits to the homes of India's ancient classical music traditions. After graduating with several academic degrees, he returned home to enrich the music with his own understanding of the ancients.

One of the most toured artistes of the Caribbean, Patasar Mungal has appeared in major festivals worldwide, the last being the Roskilde festival in Denmark where he played to an audience of about 90,000. Locally, his most recent performance was at the Tobago Jazz festival. In Paris in 2000, Mungal's music was described as the 'new world music' - the music of the new millennium, having its roots in Indian Classical ragas with motifs of reggae, calypso and including other Caribbean rhythms. The next year, 2001, Mungal launched his CD "Dreadlocks" in Paris where within a week the title song "Dreadlocks" hit the top twenty on the European charts.

At the Montreaux Jazz festival in Switzerland that year, he was quoted as saying "Europe is my doorway to the world, India my memory, Trinidad the rock on which I stand. My music is a divine gift that belongs to all." Noted musician/singer Joan Armatrading while doing a film for the BBC in Trinidad and Tobago, commented that the music of Mungal Patasar and his band, Pantar, stands out as the most cohesive fusion music in the genre of world music. For its 40th anniversary, Amnesty International chose Mungal's song "Roshni" among its CD collection of the international top twenty-seven.

Mungal retired as Director of Culture in the year 2002. After six years as a freelance musician in Europe he joined the UTT as Advisor to the President. He was later promoted to the position of Distinguished Master Artiste in Residence a position which represents the most senior artiste at the University.

He has an honorary degree from the University of the Trinidad and Tobago and has been honoured for his contribution to music with the national award of the Hummingbird Medal (Gold).



Sheila Prince
(B. 1954)



Sheila Prince is a living testimony of the power of One to change lives, build communities and protect the national heritage. From the vantage point of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, she has reached out and touched hundreds of young people, giving each the chance for change.

For almost 40 years, she has been involved in community work, especially with young people at risk. For 35 years, she was an officer of the law, working almost completely in community policing, over a career that carried her from the rank of constable all the way up to Inspector by retirement in 2009.

From the moment she left Osmond High School as a teenager in the early 1970s, Sheila Prince knew what she wanted to do with her life and went out and did it. In 1974, when she joined the Police Service, training was designed mainly around enforcement. The idea of community policing was relatively novel, but it was where her talents led her. Initially posted at the Public Relations and Welfare Department, she quickly crossed to the Public Affairs Unit, then to the Community Policing Section and, later, to the Community Policing Secretariat. Her fulfillment came in having the chance to “give people an ear”.

Working with the Police Service gave her a prime position for building relationships of trust with vulnerable communities as a basis for strengthening their capacity and promoting change. In the 1980s and 1990s, she launched the Diego Martin and Point Cumana Police Youth Clubs as proactive initiatives in keeping young people away from a life of crime and giving them the support to realize their potential.

In 2000, she took on the challenge of establishing the Beetham Gardens Police Youth Camp, inside a community described as a crime hot spot. Despite her retirement, she has stayed with this project, championing its cause and taking pride in its impact on the youngsters of Beetham Gardens. Given her experience, Sheila Prince’s advice is sought by youth clubs throughout the country. Among those she has assisted is the Rosary Association for Homeless Men.

In addition to looking after the future through the youth, Ret. Insp. Prince has equal passion for looking after the past. Almost single-handedly she established a Police museum consisting of records and artefacts assembled from dusty cupboards and storerooms throughout the Police Service. She hopes that these will help to tell the story of the evolution of policing in Trinidad and Tobago.

For her committed service to her country and its people, Retired Inspector Sheila Prince was honoured with the Public Service Medal of Merit (Silver) in 2011.



Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson
T.C., O.C.C.
(B. 1926)



Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson has the unique distinction of having served as both Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. As the Republic's third Prime Minister (1986-91) and third President (1997-2003), he is also the only citizen born in Tobago to have held either of these offices.

Arthur N.R. Robinson was born on December 16, 1926 to Isabella and James Robinson in the coastal community of Castara, where his father was Head Master of Castara Methodist School. His academic successes at Castara Methodist and Bishop's High School in Tobago earned him scholarships that supported his law studies at London University and further studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St John's College, Oxford.

In 1955, he returned home to practise law and was soon responding to the call of nationalist politics as a founding member of the People's National Movement. In 1958, he was elected to the Federal Parliament of the short-lived West Indies Federation. In 1961, he entered Parliament as the PNM representative for Tobago East, launching a durable and fascinating political career that would span four and a half decades.

In the Williams administration, he served as the first Minister of Finance of independent Trinidad and Tobago and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Nine years later, he broke from the PNM and formed the Democratic Action Congress which became his platform for greater autonomy for Tobago and integrity in public life. In 1980, he led the DAC to victory in the first elections of the Tobago House of Assembly, to become the first Chairman of the THA. Six years later, he returned to national politics, dissolving the DAC into the National Alliance for Reconstruction. In 1986, he became Prime Minister after the NAR won a landslide victory to form the government.

In 1990, his government survived an attempted coup in which he was hailed for his courage under fire after being shot in the leg. During the attempted coup, he showed extraordinary strength and patriotism. When the NAR went into Opposition in 1991, ANR Robinson continued to represent Tobago East. In the 1995 elections he returned to government as a member of the UNC-NAR coalition government under Basdeo Panday. After two years in the Cabinet, he accepted the UNC's nomination to become the third President of the Republic. Among his most distinguished legacies is the International Criminal Court, which was established in 2002, 13 years after he first tabled the motion at the United Nations General Assembly.



David Michael Rudder (B. 1953)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

David Rudder is hailed as the poet philosopher of Calypso who reached back into the art form's past and drew deeply from the roots of African culture to inspire it with new relevance, creativity and musicality. Celebrated by his fans as King David for his transformative impact on the 100-year-old narrative of the recorded art form, the calypsonian chose to break sobriquet tradition by presenting himself, unadorned, as simply David Rudder.

His musical instincts were honed in Belmont where he was born. His songs carry the influences of his grandmother, a spiritual Baptist, the neighbouring Shango yard and the community pan yard. He began singing at the age of 11 with a group called The Solutions but entered the public imagination in 1977 when he joined the popular brass band Charlie's Roots. His own sound is dipped in the sounds of Africa, jazz, blues and folk rock.

At a mature 33 years old, David Michael Rudder stormed into the calypso arena in dramatic fashion in 1986, sweeping all before him with *The Hammer*, a tribute to the legendary pannist Rudolph Charles, and *Bahia Girl*. He copped all three major titles on offer: Young King, Calypso Monarch and Road March King, and walked away for good measure with the runner-up prize in the last-named competition as well as the honour of having composed the winning Panorama tune. Had there been a People's Choice contest too, there is little doubt that he would have added that title to the list of his triumphs that year. The next year, he delivered the immortal *Calypso Music*, an ode to the history of calypso.

Having cut his teeth in the backstage areas of the calypso tent singing back-up to some of Calypso's headliners, the Belmont-born former accountant eventually made the highly successful transition to the calypso centre-stage. His lyrics attested to a perspective that was much broader than was the norm, a concern with the world beyond the confines of the two islands that constitute the Republic.

Rudder once confessed to an interviewer that, were he to write a calypso about someone being killed on a public roadway, he would try to do so neither from the point of view of the perpetrator or of the victim but of the bloodstain on the pavement. It was that refusal as an artiste to be constrained by convention, as epitomized in his "Hosay" commentary on the 1990 attempted coup, that won him accolades from acknowledged experts for the originality and depth of his oeuvre.

Over more than 20 albums since his arrival on stage in 1986, Rudder has produced work that has won sustained critical acclaim. Before it was adopted as the official anthem, his "Rally Round the West Indies" became the widely acknowledged theme for a fading regional cricket team. His "Haiti" album raised the visibility of a regional challenge that many would have preferred to ignore. Through his collaboration with Mas man extraordinaire Peter Minshall, he has created calypso music themed specifically for Mas bands, a hitherto unheard of phenomenon.

In summing up David Rudder's career, calypso critic Keith Smith wrote: "Rudder has refused to turn his back on the great calypso tradition he has inherited, but the measure of his art is how he has remained unconfined by that tradition, yet secure in the foundation..."



Anthony N. Sabga O.R.T.T.
(B. 1923)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Anthony Norman Sabga is a self-made business titan whose journey began as a child in a strange, new land and broke every barrier on its way to success. His achievements span the Caribbean through a network built from enterprise, hard work and the self-confidence to take the right risks.

He arrived in Trinidad from Syria in 1930 as a seven year-old, the second of the three sons of Sarah and Norman Sabga. His days were spent between classes at Nelson Boys RC School and helping his father in their haberdashery business. The rhythm changed when his father got ill and took the tough decision to return to Syria, leaving his boys to run N S Sabga & Sons.

At the age of 14, young Anthony joined his brothers and worked in the family business for eight years until 1945 when he left to start Standard Distributors Ltd., a retailer of imported products. Success came slowly at first as he searched for the right combination of products for the Trinidad market of the 1950s. One of his biggest breakthroughs came in the early Fifties at the Hanover trade fair in Germany where he connected with Bosch appliances and became its local distributor. Taking a page out of the Syrian cloth-sellers book, he packed small five cubic feet refrigerators onto the back of a van and went from house to house, selling them at a price which he promoted as \$2.50 a day. From there, he never looked back.

The rapid socio-economic changes that came with Independence in 1962 expanded the market for his products, while the government's industrialization policy encouraged ventures into manufacturing. In 1966, he started Ansa Industries Ltd. Its appliances were distributed all over the Caribbean. One of his most strategic investment decisions came during the economic downturn of the Eighties when he decided to buy the ailing asset-rich, cash-poor McAl conglomerate for \$40 million, transforming it into Ansa McAl. Overnight, he became the head of one of the largest conglomerates in the Caribbean, operating in every sphere of economic activity. His success has benefited the wider society through many avenues, including the funding of the Ansa McAl Centre for Psychological Research at UWI, St Augustine, and the Ansa McAl Caribbean Awards for Excellence.

For his impact on business and society, Anthony Sabga has been honoured with an assortment of awards including the country's highest award, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2011), and the honorary Doctor of Laws from UWI.



Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (Incorporated In 1952)

The Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha is the major Hindu organisation in Trinidad and Tobago, with over 150 mandirs and over 50 schools under its stewardship. It was created in 1952 as a result of the merger of the Sanatan Dharma Association and the Sanatan Dharma Board of Control, for which Bhadase Sagan Maraj is credited. An affiliated group, the Pundits' Parishad, has 200 affiliated pundits.

In 1881, the Sanatan Dharma Association was founded in Trinidad in an attempt to consolidate Hindus and lobby on their behalf. Fifty-one years later, in 1932, it was incorporated by an Act of Legislature. That same year, another rival organization, the Sanatan Dharma Board of Control, was also incorporated. As representative bodies, they promoted Hindu interests and liaised with colonial and parliamentary authorities. In 1935, the Sanatan Dharma Board of Control became formally affiliated with the Sanatan Dharma Pratinidhi Sabha based in Lahore, India. Pundits and laymen throughout the island became affiliated with one or the other of the two national Hindu bodies. The Sanatan Dharma Board of Control, for example, had branches in 32 villages by the late 1930s.

The 1952 merger that gave birth to the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha began that year when, with the guidance and direction of the powerful Pundit Goberdhan JP of Siparia Old Road, Bhadase Sagan Maraj united the Sanatan Dharma Association and the Sanatan Dharma Board of Control. In that year Maraj, a self-made millionaire and sugar union leader, merged the two Sanatanist Hindu bodies to create a much more powerful pressure group and public organization. To ensure uniform teaching and practices, the Maha Sabha published relevant literature for use throughout its schools and temples. Foremost on the new organization's agenda was education, which its members saw as the key to promoting Hindu unity and promulgating the faith among future generations of Hindus, and to provide Hindus with greater opportunities for social advancement. Between 1952 and 1956 the Maha Sabha built 31 schools all over the island. Today, the Maha Sabha operates 42 schools in Trinidad, over 150 temples, and has affiliated over 200 pundits. Dr Deonarine Omah Maharaj, a medical practitioner who served as an Opposition Senator in the Federal Parliament of 1958, became President of Maha Sabha and served in this position for several decades following the passing of Bhadase Sagan Maraj. But it was Mr Satnarayan Maharaj, Secretary General of the Maha Sabha, who was to emerge as the voice and face of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha after Bhadase Maraj.

Under Secretary General Satnarayan Maharaj the Maha Sabha has modernized all 42 schools and built five secondary schools, as well as 12 early childhood educational centres. It has also revived the observance of Phagwa, and was instrumental in the creation of the Indian Arrival Day holiday and annual celebrations.



National Icons
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of Trinidad and Tobago



Jit Sukha Samaroo
(B. 1950)

Jit Samaroo lives in the valleys but has scaled the heights of steelband music and competition to write his name into the history books as the most successful arranger in the 50-year history of the Panorama competition.

Jit Samaroo was born in Lopinot Valley in east Trinidad, miles from the steelband milieu of Port of Spain. In Lopinot Village, the music came from his mother's dholak drum and from parang groups around him. At age 10 he played pan briefly with the transient pan-round-the-neck group Village Boys. He was just 11 when his mother died, leaving him and his siblings to look after each other. Jit found the solution in music. With two sisters, two brothers and himself, he started a family combo side, playing parang at first. At age 15, he had a life-changing encounter with Landig White, the musical director of the Lever Brothers Canboulay Steelband in Tunapuna. He joined the band, quickly mastering all the instruments while trying his hand at arranging for the band. The family band got into the act when he took home some discarded pans and taught them to play. After its debut at UWI in 1967, the Samaroo Kids Steel Orchestra became the perfect showcase for Jit Samaroo's talents, prompting the Pan world to take notice.

In 1971, Bertrand "Butch" Kelman, tuner for both the Samaroo Kids and Renegades Steelband, introduced Jit Samaroo to Renegades, launching one of the most fertile Pan partnerships of all time. Together they have won the national Panorama competition a record nine times, including a historic hat-trick in 1995, 1996 and 1997. In 1984, they romped home with an astounding victory margin of 17.5 points.

Jit Samaroo has also been a prolific composer whose work captures the cross-cultural influences of his life. In 1997 and 1999, the family band, by then known as the Samaroo Jets, put on two full-length concerts consisting solely of his work. In 2007, Jit Samaroo retired from Renegades, having sealed his reputation as one of the most successful, accurate, clinical arrangers ever. On the basis of his body of work, the University of the West Indies awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2003. Earlier, in 1995, he was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Silver).



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Len "Boogsie" Sharpe
(B. 1953)

Len "Boogsie" Sharpe was a child prodigy of the steelpan who actualized his gifts for composing, arranging and performing through the steelband, adding new dimensions to the music.

Born on Benares Street, St James, to a Jamaican father and Trinidadian mother, Boogsie, as he is popularly called, started playing pan at the age of four in the yard of Crossfire Steelband, where he practically grew up. He was 10 when he crafted his first arrangement for a steelband. The piece, "Theme From The Sons of Katie Elder", was performed at the Christmas concert of his school Woodbrook Presbyterian. His life since then has been devoted to the creation and performance of music on this instrument.

As a teenager, he joined the mother-band of west Port of Spain, Invaders, which he would leave to team up with visionary composer Ray Holman in Starlift Steelband. Alongside Holman, Sharpe acquired sufficient competence and confidence to launch out on his own. In 1972, he formed Phase II Pan Groove, the band that continues to give breath to Sharpe's innate and urgent talent.

Sharpe remains the premier example of a musical genius in the post-Independence era of the steelband movement. Without reading a note of music, he has been able to compose complex melodies and arrangements that have taken Phase II into the winners' circle of the Panorama competition. Phase II has emerged champions six times, run second 11 times and third five times — a total of 22 times in the top three. Among his most memorable Panorama compositions were "I Music" (1984), "Musical Wine" (1985), "Pan Rising" (1986), "Dis Feeling Nice" (1987), "Woman is Boss" (1988) and "Birthday Party" (1993).

He is also in high demand as an arranger for other bands, many of which make it all the way to the top, sometimes competing with each other. In 1987, his arrangements won the north, south and Tobago zones, the Pan-Round-The Neck competition and the national finals.

Outside of the Carnival arena, he composes on original Caribbean themes for the Steelband Music Festival. These full-blown orchestral narratives include "The Saga of San Fernando Hill", "The Three Seasons", "Faces" and "Rain Forest".

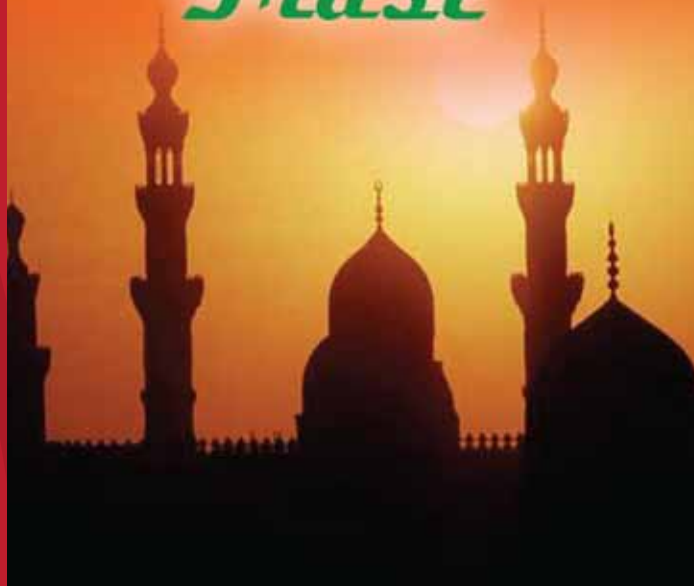
Blessed with perfect pitch, Boogsie is a virtuoso player with a gift for improvising. He plays every instrument in the steelband, but his successful international solo career is built on the double-seconds, which have sparked in many a jazz ensemble. In 2009, he received the Hummingbird Medal (Gold).



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Abdul Aziz Trust



ABDUL AZIZ TRUST
(Est. 1951)



*National Icons
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of Trinidad and Tobago*

The Abdul Aziz Trust is the inspiring legacy of Imam Abdul Aziz, a Muslim leader of Central Trinidad who, guided by the principles of Islam, laid the foundation for community development through education, knowledge and sharing.

Imam Aziz died at the early age of 48 but his work has continued through the Abdul Aziz Trust for over 60 years through the dedicated leadership and guidance of his wife Hajjin Hanifa Abdul and their ten children.

Imam Aziz came to the fore as a community leader in the years after the end of Indian indentureship in Trinidad and Tobago when entire communities were left to search for a way out of poverty into a better life. Having worked in the sugar industry and risen to the position of sardar (foreman), Imam Aziz was trusted and respected by the community for his foresight and wisdom.

A practical man, he collaborated with others, including Presbyterian missionaries, in opening up educational opportunities for his community, Muslim and non-Muslim alike. These bonds became very important when Muslim organizations began their own school-building programmes in the 1950s.

Imam Aziz lived the tenets of his faith most deeply within his family, nurturing in them a sense of personal and family responsibility for improving the lives of others. In preparation for the future, he sent his son Mohamed to India and Pakistan to study theology and medicine. On his return, Dr Aziz added a new and professional dimension to the work of the Abdul Aziz Trust, carrying forward the dream of his father who had passed away at the height of his life's work.

In the midst of her grief and immense responsibilities as a mother of ten, Hanifa Aziz stepped forward to continue her husband's work. For 37 years she guided her children in developing her husband's legacy, giving dawah in sharing their Islamic faith, and pursuing a programme of humanitarian work. The Trust committed itself to outreach work which included the provision of medical and welfare services, counseling, charity and community education seminars on alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and other crimes, family development, the environment and other social issues.

The Trust was a sanctuary of support following the closure of Caroni (1975) Ltd., which released a large pool of labour in need of care and guidance.

In 1980, accompanied by her second son Imam Ahamadh Aziz, Mrs Aziz made the pilgrimage to the Holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia thereby earning the title of Hajjin.

In 1989, at the age of 77, Hajjin Hanifa Aziz passed away, at peace in the knowledge that she had fulfilled her husband's mission, and that their dream was safe in the hands of their children and



Anthony Williams O.R.T.T.
(B. June 1931)

Anthony Williams is a scientist of the Steelpan whose innovations transformed the rhythm of the old Ping Pong pan into the percussion instrument now hailed as the only one invented in the 20th century. Among pan pioneers he stands tall for the revolutionary impact of his inventions on the development of the Steelpan and the Steelband.

Anthony Williams was a little boy growing up in St James when he discovered that he could beat four notes out of a biscuit pan to get the tune of Mary Had A Little Lamb and even more notes from a sweet oil tin. His next major breakthrough came at the age of 15. While others dismissed the idea, he was convinced he could do something with oil drums discarded by the US Navy. He was right. Better tone and more space to add notes were his rewards.

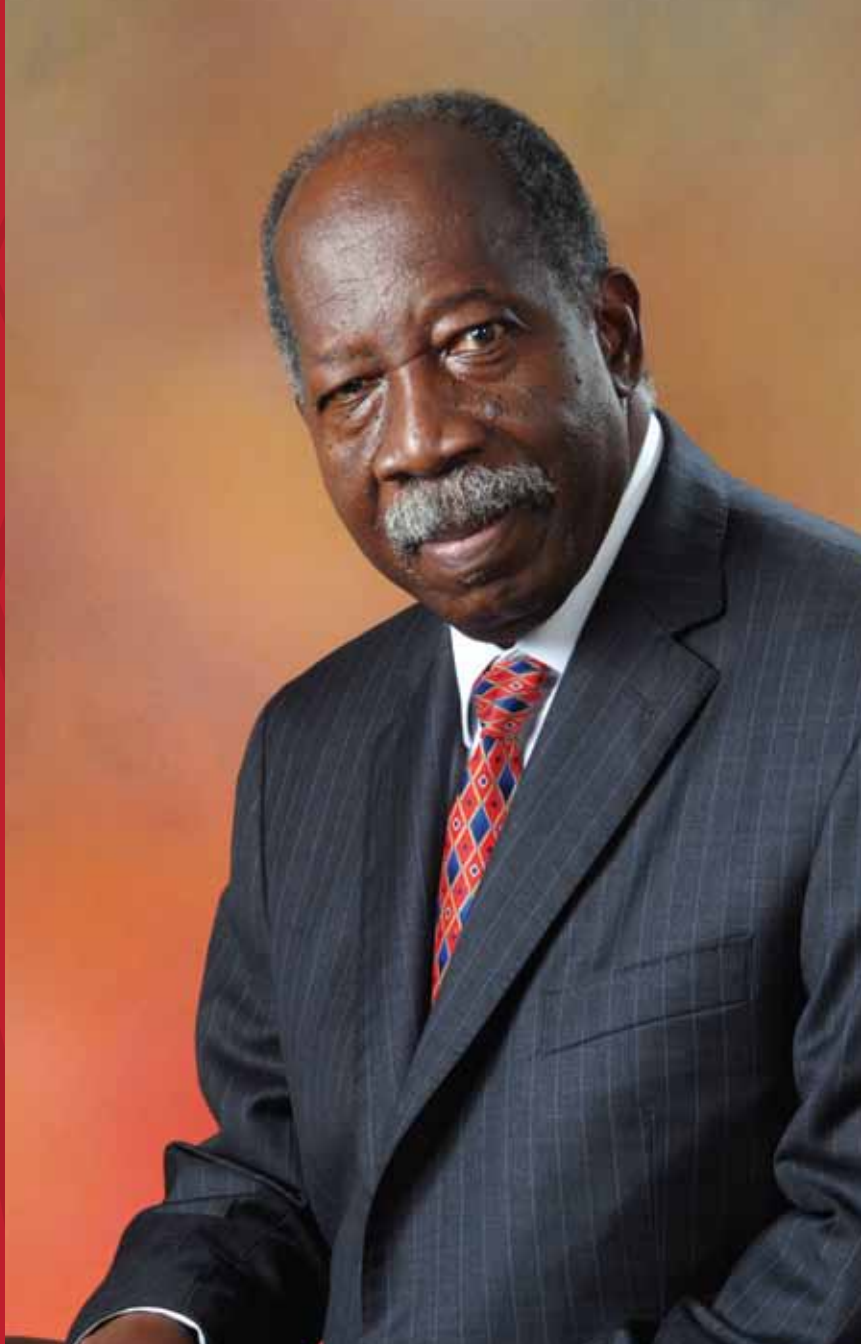
By 1950, with oil drums becoming the norm among Ping Pong bands, an era of experimentation began in which Anthony Williams was a clear leader — experimenting, observing, analysing and problem solving. By 1952, other Williams innovations were being showcased in his new band, North Stars, which had evolved out of Sun Valley with Anthony Williams as its leader. The innovations were that of a mind on the cutting edge of Steelpan technology: the Double Strumming Pan had emerged to replace the Alto Pong and, to solve the problem of weight and mobility, the Double Pans were on wooden stands, the Double Cello had legs and the Ping Pong were on metal stands instead of the old neck strap. Two years later, he put both Pan and stand on wheels, making the bands more mobile.

In 1956, he presented his most revolutionary invention of all in his design and note-placement of the "Spider Pan" which opened up a world of new possibilities for Steelband music. Years of quiet research had led him to a mathematical formula in which each ascending note was precisely one eighth of an inch smaller than the preceding note. Out of this research came the "fourths and fifths" Tenor Pan, which is recognised today as the international standard for the tenor and many other steelband instruments. Anthony Williams never stopped experimenting with the Steelpan. In his search for more perfect working material, he invented a Pan mould from metal sheets welded to a skirt.

In the competitive arena, he led North Stars to victory in the first two Panorama competitions (1963, 1964). For his contribution to the development of the Steelpan, In 2008, Anthony Williams was honoured with the nation's highest honour, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Robert Theophilus Yorke
(B. 1933)



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago

Robert Theophilus Yorke engineered buildings and lives as he scaled heights of achievement, carrying a long line of people with him into the profession of engineering and the business horizons beyond it. Armed with extraordinary self-confidence and ever mindful about the road he had travelled from Buccoo, Tobago, Robert Yorke opened as many doors for others as he did for himself.

Like many young Tobagonians of his age, he left secondary school to apprentice himself and learn a trade. A cousin working at the brick factory in central Trinidad provided the ideal opportunity for landing a job in Trinidad. He saved his money until in 1956 he had enough to make the voyage to England, where he worked with engineering consultancies in London before enrolling at Hammersmith College in structural engineering studies.

In 1967, he returned to the Caribbean, working for two years as a design engineer with the Public Works Department in Antigua before coming home to take up a job as chief engineer with British steel fabricator Sanders and Foster. When Sanders and Foster left Trinidad in 1972, Yorke launched his own company, Yorke Structures Ltd. It was the right company at the right time as the oil boom fuelled a construction boom. Yorke Structures had no real competition at the time, allowing the firm to flourish and become the premier structural engineering and steel fabricating company in the Caribbean region.

Robert Yorke has extensive professional affiliations at home and in the UK, and has received awards and accolades of all kinds including the "People's Choice Award" by the Institute of Structural Engineers in the UK and "Career of Excellence", the highest award of the Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago (2003).

Robert Yorke was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Engineering and Entrepreneurship from the University of Trinidad and Tobago in 2005 and one of the country's highest honours, the Chaconia Gold, in 2011. For years, he has honoured his own success by helping students and young professionals, granting scholarships and funding annual merit awards for engineering students at UWI.

An important highlight of Robert Yorke's business career was his 1985 purchase of the Mt Irvine Bay Hotel and Golf Course, which made him the first Tobagonian to purchase a hotel of that size. More than anything else, this purchase was symbolic of the journey he has made from the days when he was forbidden to enter the estate.



Dwight Yorke



Russell Latapy

& The Soca Warriors



National Icons
of The Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago



Dwight Yorke's powerful foot and inspirational leadership, combined with the football artistry of Russell Latapy and the commitment of a talented team of Soca Warriors propelled Trinidad and Tobago into football history as the first Caribbean country and smallest nation ever to qualify for the FIFA World Cup in 2006.

It was Yorke's arrival and subsequent presence in the squad that ultimately helped to turn a seemingly irretrievable situation in the qualifying round of the 2006 World Cup into a fourth place, play-off-earning finish. After a 1-1 draw at home and a headed conversion of Yorke's pin point accurate corner in the second leg of the play-off in Bahrain, Trinidad and Tobago made a dramatic entry onto football's biggest stage.

Yorke, born in 1971, was not quite 20 years old when he played in his first World Cup in Portugal in 1990. As the youngest member of the Strike Squad a year earlier, he had come within a whisker of making an appearance in Italy 1990 but was denied by a second

half goal against the U.S. a couple of weeks after his 18th birthday. However, he did enough over that entire campaign to catch the eye of the Aston Villa coach and to go on to etch his name in the annals of the English Premier League with his prolific goal scoring.

In their opening match of the World Cup Germany campaign, Yorke inspired the little-fancied Soca Warriors, which boasted a handful of fellow EPL professionals, to a promising goalless draw against Sweden. He had done it before for Signal Hill in the Secondary Schools League and for the St Clair Coaching School in domestic competition in Tobago. All Trinidad and Tobago hoped that he could repeat the feat in Germany by leading the Soca Warriors to earn an additional point or two – or even more – from England and Paraguay.

The miracle did not come but the Soca Warriors ended the 2006 campaign with their heads high and with the love and respect of their compatriots intact. The 34-year-old skipper, the beloved Russell Latapy and the entire team came home to a heroes'

welcome from a public that knew they had given their all. The performance earned the generosity of the Government which awarded every member of the team the country's second highest honour, the Chaconia Medal (Gold).

Making the trip home with Dwight Yorke was the Budweiser "Man of the Match" award given to him after the draw against Sweden. In representing the red, white and black, this trophy stands tall in a career that includes almost 400 matches in England and Australia with over 100 goals next to his name. But above all, it recalls that moment in history when Dwight Yorke, Russell Latapy and the Soca Warriors of 2006 made Trinidad and Tobago proud on the biggest football stage in the world. Members of the team were: Dwight Yorke (captain), Russell Latapy, Shaka Hislop, Ian Cox, Avery John, Marvin Andrews, Brent Sancho, Dennis Lawrence, Chris Birchall, Cyd Gray, Aurtis Whitley, Carlos Edwards, Collin Samuel, Cornell Glen, Stern John, Kenwyne Jones, Evans Wise, Atiba Charles, Densill Theobald, Jason Scotland, Kelvin Jack, Clayton Ince, Anthony Wolfe and Silvio Spann.

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