

EVERGREEN PRODUCTIONS AND Cimbux SALUTE



Tom & Charles

Thomas B. Charles – saddler, innovator, composer, musician, musical archivist, violinist, flutist, drummer, percussionist, rhythm specialist, promoter, cultural guardian, band leader of the defunct syncopaters orchestra—prided himself as being one among the first band leaders to employ musicians full time. He paid them a salary and had bookings year round. He commissioned his musicians and created a professional environment of mutual respect. His band Synco, as it was called, initiated many young singers and musicians both male and female.

Syncopaters orchestra with Tom on drums became a fixture as the "band traveled the length and breadth of Guyana – the three counties: Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice. Penetrating the fabric of the Guyanese psyche, shattering its stratification – his music lingers.

He was the inventor of the "Creole series". After careful study he extracted from the masquerade, rhythm structure and created the Guyana Bhoom beat in 1966. He recorded the music in 1969. This Bhoom Beat was to give Guyanese and Guyana a sense of pride, as he used to say, when the Nation was approaching nationhood. The Bhoom is to Guyana what reggae is to Jamaica, but its evolution was short-lived. Tom had many recordings to his credit and copyrighted lyrics such as "Black Father Christmas" and "This is the time for Reunion". As a saddler and musician, he toured many Caribbean countries and understood and was conversant with world rhythmic structures. He shared his experience by teaching many students. We of Evergreen Productions referred to him as the group's mentor.

Tom grew up in Victoria Village, Guyana. He participated extensively in outdoor sports and continued to be an ardent fan of all sports. He played club cricket competitively, and if you engaged him with statistics in boxing and wrestling you would be dumbfounded.

A man of many hats: suave, debonair, benevolent; an honoree and life long member of many organizations; a lodge man and a man who honored his commitments – a stalwart. Remember how he dressed for an occasion: suit, tie; tie pin, handkerchief, and shoes – synchronized. He never missed a function of great significance. His fish cakes – wet the appetite – remember. He was a

non-smoker and non-drinker, but he liked ginger beer, ice cream and cake – the local stuff. He was an accomplished dancer with a flare for calypso, reggae, cadance, zouk, merengue. Remember how he demonstrated the electric slide; what precision. That's synco.

On political issues in Guyana he was restrained and contemplative, but if you challenged him sometimes he would pull rank on you by saying "I lived through that, but the banning of Sunday Picnics was the final straw which prevented all sectors of the population engaged in facilitating the entertainment industry – seamstresses, tailors, beauticians, chauffeurs, barbers, shop keepers, vendors, from earning their livelihood." This led to his migration to the U.S.A. in 1970.

To his wife, children, especially Patsy who was committed to his care, in-laws, grandchildren, greatgrands, sisters, nephews, nieces, extended family, friends, well wishers; we the members of Evergreen Productions and Cimbux urge you to remember his stature and wisdom:

- he loved all -

- be strong -

Culture magnifies the dead and the living -

Dawn

He who stood up
was whisked off,
He who was whisked off stood up.
The drum is silent
The sunrise and sunset subsides,
Babies are born
The harvest plenty
The torch is lit.
When he who was whisked off stood up
The soldiers disappeared
The land is fertile
Flowers bloom
and
The womb opens
Dawn

Forever

Evergreen is deep within
Live, Grow, bloom, blossom and be firm
Forever
We love you Tom
I am wounded
Peace