

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New York City | Monday, June 15, 2026**

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**JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION, INC.™ (JIFI~NYC)**

**Proudly Presents: The Official People's Ball**

**In Celebration of Jamaica's 64th Anniversary of Independence**

The **Jamaica Independence Foundation, Inc.™** (JIFI~NYC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and recognized NGO, proudly invites you to its premier annual BALL, **The Official People's Ball**, a grand celebration of culture, heritage, and humanitarian impact honoring Jamaica's 64th year of independence. This distinguished **grand black-tie** affair brings together members of the Jamaican diaspora, community leaders, pioneers, and friends of Jamaica for an unforgettable evening of elegance, entertainment, and national pride.

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**◆ EVENT DETAILS ◆**

**Event: The Official People's Ball** – Celebrating Jamaica's 64th Independence Anniversary

**Date: Saturday, August 8, 2026**

**Venue: Terrace on the Park**

52-11 111th Street, Queens, New York 11368

**Time:** 7:00 PM – Midnight

**Attire:** Formal Grand Black-Tie

**About the evening:** Cocktail \* Dinner \* Awards \* Silent Auction \* Entertainment \* Dancing

**Theme:** *The Emerald Masquerade* — Inspired by the cultural tradition of **Jonkonnu**

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**◆ A NIGHT OF CULTURE & CELEBRATION ◆**

Hosted by Master of Ceremonies **Lyndon Taylor** and Co-Host **Stacy Mac**, the evening will feature a special live performance by **LeRoy Graham Jr. & Allstar "The True Tribute Band"**, with music by legendary DJ **Roy of Road International**.

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**◆ SPECIAL TRIBUTE ◆**

JIFI~NYC will present a special tribute to one of our past honorees and we will be honoring the late reggae and ska pioneer **Stranger Cole**.

As one of the pioneering voices of Jamaica's early ska era, Stranger Cole helped shape the soundtrack of a newly independent Jamaica. His music captured the spirit of the era, youthful

optimism, street culture, and a growing national identity expressed through ska, reflecting the energy and cultural awakening of Jamaica in and around 1962.

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#### ◆ 2027 HONOREES ◆

- **Kaitlyn Smith** — *The Voice of a Generation Award*
  - **Reanno Gordon (Busy Signal)** — *Reggae Ambassador Iconic Award*
  - **Canute Sadler** — *Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship, Agriculture & Nation Building Award*
  - **Icahn Charter School #4 (Bronx, NY)** — *Excellence in Education, Equity & Humanitarian Philanthropy Award*
  - **Patrick Barrett, O.D., J.P. (Tony Rebel)** — *International Cultural Luminary Award*
  - **George E. Crooks** — *The Vanguard Award – Distinguished Service, Cultural Excellence & Humanitarian Leadership*
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#### ◆ PURPOSE BEYOND CELEBRATION ◆

Proceeds from this event support JIFI~NYC's ongoing humanitarian initiatives, including assistance for:

- Women in crisis
  - Amateur Jamaican youth athletes competing internationally
  - Underserved communities in Jamaica and the United States
  - Families impacted by Hurricane Melissa in October 2025
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#### ◆ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR, Ms. JLexy Brooks ◆

As we celebrate **Jamaica's 64th Anniversary of Independence**, we proudly honor the journey that began in 1962 and the resilient spirit that defines our nation. From our world-class athletes and gifted musicians to our pioneering leaders and vibrant diaspora, Jamaicans continue to make an extraordinary impact around the world. As we celebrate the beauty of our island, rich culture, and remarkable achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to uplifting communities and building a brighter future for generations to come.

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#### ◆ COMMUNITY IMPACT ◆

JIFI~NYC proudly acknowledges its continued partnerships with:

Mustard Seed Communities • Safe Horizon • Team Jamaica Bickle • Women In Need (WIN-NYC) • Lions Clubs International • Karen's Club • UJAA USA • Rose Town Foundation (Jamaica)

#### ◆ TICKETS & INFORMATION ◆

Tickets: [www.Jifinyc.org](http://www.Jifinyc.org)

Sponsorship, media, and advertising: [Info@jifinyc.org](mailto:Info@jifinyc.org)

◆ A WORLD OF THANKS TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS◆

**Caribbean Food Delights • Royal Caribbean Bakery • Genesis #1 Restaurant • Jamaica Tourist Board • Amazura • VP Records • Busy Foundation, The Door Restaurant, Roadblockradio.com, and many more.**

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We invite you to join us dressed in **Black, Gold, and Green** as we celebrate Jamaica's legacy, honor excellence, and invest in the future.

All contributions are fully tax-deductible allowed by law.