

Fla Honours Sonny Bradshaw

Jamaican jazz musician Sonny Bradshaw, has been honoured in Florida.

The City of Miramar, Florida has honoured Bradshaw for his outstanding contribution to the development of music in Jamaica, as well as on the international circuit, spanning some 60 years.

Miramar City Mayor, Lori Moseley, presented him with a proclamation at the opening of the 800-seat Miramar Cultural Arts Centre recently.

Describing Mr. Bradshaw as a musical genius, the Mayor commended him for helping to popularize Jamaican music in its various forms. Mentioning the annual Ocho Rios Jazz Festival, of which Mr. Bradshaw is the founding organiser, Ms. Moseley, said that the festival, which started nearly 18 years ago, has grown to become a major event on Jamaica's tourism calendar.

Following the presentation, Bradshaw's wife, jazz vocalist Myrna Hague, accompanied by the Sonny Bradshaw Seven, performed to a full house at the opening ceremony. They gave a rendition of jazz, reggae and traditional folk songs, at times fusing the musical forms to create a unique Jamaican sound.

The Caribbean Jazz Gala, which highlighted the opening of the US\$20 million facility, also featured performances from saxophonist, Dean Fraser; and Haitians Reginald Policard (piano) and Jean Caze (trumpet).

In the meantime, Mayor Moseley informed that a full schedule of entertainment, punctuated with a variety of Caribbean cultural performances, would unfold early next year at the centre.

The facility, which is the focal point of the newly constructed Miramar Town Centre, is being managed through partnership with the Broward Centre for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale (BCPA).

A range of Jamaican cultural performances have already been staged at the centre through partnership with the Consulate General of Jamaica.