

Monty Alexander among Five Jamaicans to be Honoured in Washington

Jazz great, Monty Alexander, is one of five Jamaicans to be honored at a special edition of the 19th Annual Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Award Gala slated for November 16 at the Washington Capitol Hilton, in Washington, D.C.

The event will also salute Jamaica as well as Trinidad and Tobago, two Caribbean countries celebrating 50 years of independence this year. Mr. Alexander, who will receive the Luminary Award, is being honored for his world-renowned musical career that spans 50 years. Over his career, he has collaborated with Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie and Quincy Jones among other musical greats, and his music is enjoyed by many generations. He has maintained a rigorous worldwide touring schedule, and has recorded 70 albums to date. The other awardees are: William "Bunny Rugs" Clarke, lead singer for Third World, one of the longest running reggae bands of all time, who will receive the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) Cultural Ambassador Award; President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), Dean Garfield, will be presented with the Outstanding Contribution to Corporate America Award; and Editor-in-Chief of Essence magazine Constance C.R. White will be honored for Excellence in Journalism. Founder of the Calabash International Literary Festival, held on Jamaica's South Coast, Colin Channer, will receive the Award for Excellence in Literature; and Deputy Director, White House Office of Public Engagement Heather Foster, will receive commendation for Outstanding Public Service. Other CARAH 2012 Honorees include Trinidadians: Anya Ayoung Chee, of Project Runway fame; soccer star Shaka Hislop; Pan Master with the Jimmy Buffett Band, Robert Greenidge; and CEO of the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers, Andy Ingraham. The event will be hosted by news anchor Maureen Bunyan of ABC News affiliate WJLA TV7, and Neki Mohan, who is a regular on WPLG TV10 in South Florida. Proceeds from the CARAH Awards will support the ICS youth entrepreneurship training programme LIFESeed, the Annual Caribbean American Legislative Week, the Caribbean arts & culture festival AllSPICE, and ICS Embassy Evenings.