

MUSIC NOTES

IF YOU'RE LIKE MOST AMERICANS, YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO LEARN WHERE SOME OF THE BEST-KNOWN CALYPSO SONGS ORIGINATED—AND HOW YOU CAN ENJOY THEM AT HOME TODAY. THOUGH SUCH SONGS AS “DAY-O”, “JAMAICA FAREWELL,” “ISLAND IN THE SUN” AND MANY MORE MAY SOUND LIKE THEY SPRANG FROM ROVING TROUBADOURS, THEY WERE ALL WRITTEN BY THE SAME MAN. IRVING BURGIE WAS BORN IN 1924 AND ATTENDED JUILLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC ON THE G-I BILL. THEN, IN THE 1950S, HE MET SINGER HARRY BELAFONTE. THEIR ASSOCIATION LED TO THE ALBUM “CALYPSO”—THE FIRST TO SELL A MILLION COPIES. BURGIE’S SONGS HAVE BEEN HEARD ON BROADWAY, T-V, IN MOVIES AND IN MANY PLACES WHERE PEOPLE LOVE TO SING. “DAY-O” EVEN WENT INTO SPACE—USED AS A WAKE-UP CALL ON THE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS. HE ALSO WROTE BARBADOS’ NATIONAL ANTHEM AS WELL AS THE CHRISTMAS EVERGREEN, “MARY’S BOY CHILD.” NOW HIS LIFE AND MUSIC CAN BE SEEN AND HEARD ON AN EXCITING, TUNEFUL D-V-D AVAILABLE AT IRVING-BURGIE--DOT--COM. AT THAT SITE YOU CAN ALSO GET C-Ds OF HIS MUSIC AND A TWENTY-FIVE-TUNE SONGBOOK AS WELL AS HIS RIVETING AUTOBIOGRAPHY, “DAY-O!!!”

NOTE TO BROADCASTERS: TO INTERVIEW IRVING BURGIE, THE FATHER OF MODERN CALYPSO MUSIC, EMAIL KSHERRY15@ICLOUD.COM