



Reggae Music Pioneer Bankie Banx Announces Tour

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(THE VALLEY, ANGUILLA, B.W.I. and Houston, Texas) – Following the success of his 15th Annual Moonsplash Music Festival. Bankie Banx begins his Moonsplash Across America Tour on September 9, 2005 in Houston, Texas. The stated goals of the tour are to promote Moonsplash 2006, and to raise awareness of an issue very close to Bankie's heart. Bankie will perform songs from his albums Chariots of Steel (Independent) and Amazing Grace (Thump Records, Universal).

Specifically, Bankie recently launched "The Project Stingray Program" an after school program on his native Anguilla that he co-founded. The goal of "Project Stingray" is to raise funding to provide musical instruments for children on the island. The program was started in response to an increasing need for guidance and mentoring among children on the island. The after school program will teach students to play various musical instruments, and introduce them to different aspects of performance and the music business. The long-term objective of the program is to steer kids away from crime and violence by improving their self esteem. Bankie also recently signed on to become a spokesperson for a Lancaster, PA based program – "Music For Everyone."

Bankie celebrated 15 years making Moonsplash magic, with one of the greatest reggae bands of all time as the headlining act. With a musical legacy that spans five decades, Toots and the Maytals helped invent the sound known around the world today as reggae music. Moonsplash has previously featured reggae bands Culture, Third World, Freddie Magregor, Rita Marley and The Wailers among others. The Bacon Brothers, Peter Setera, and Woodstock legend Ritchie Havens have also graced the Moonsplash stage.

Bankie Banx, who handcrafted his first guitar at age 9 and has toured across Europe and North America is the best known artist from his native Anguilla. Bankie brings his unique blend of folk, blues, jazz and reggae back to the stage in the U.S. in a series of acoustic and full band performances. Bankie's stellar career started in 1977, and he has appeared in features on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America, and CBS This Morning. Bankie also had a recurring role on the former Fox sitcom Key West, and his music has been featured in several motion picture sound tracks. Confirmed performances include:

9/9/05 – Last Concert Café, Houston, TX (Full Band)
9/15/05 – Simon Grill & Bar, Hard Rock Hotel, Las Vegas [Benefiting Hurricane Katrina Relief] (Acoustic)
9/22/05 – The Blue Lemon Restaurant (Anguilla Tourist Board Event), West Port, CT (Acoustic)
9/23/05 – The Canal Room, New York, NY (Acoustic)
9/24/05 – 2nd Annual Mac Splash, Bucks County, PA (Full Band)
9/25/05 – World Café Live, Philadelphia, PA (Acoustic)
9/29/05 – Private Engagement [Benefiting Music For Everyone], Lancaster, PA (Acoustic)

For more pictures, music samples, information and the latest updates, please visit Bankie's website at <http://www.bankiebanx.net>.

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