



# Cayman Airways skies

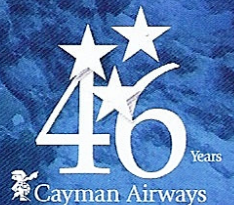
July | August 2014



**Sentinels of the Deep**

**Quirky Sightseeing Tours**

**Island Hopping in  
the Sister Islands**





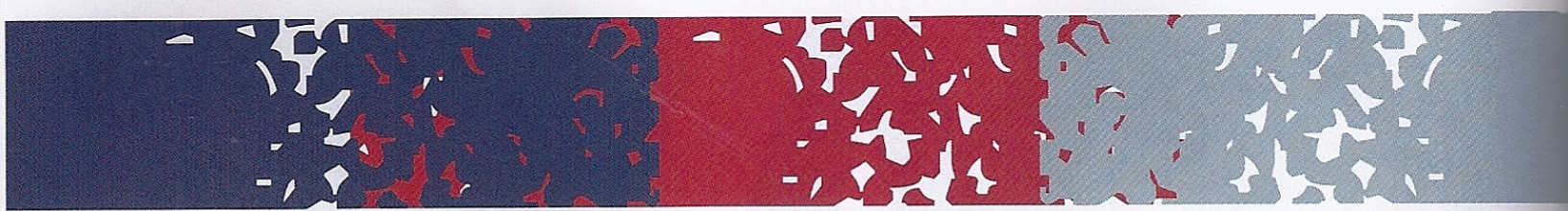




# CARIBBEAN LEAN SON

REGGAE ARTIST KY-MAN MARLEY FOLLOWS IN HIS FAMOUS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.





he second-youngest son of legendary reggae artist Bob Marley, Ky-Mani Marley (whose mother was Jamaican table tennis champ Anita Belnavis) was born in 1976 in Falmouth, Jamaica, but relocated to Miami at the age of 8.

He started singing, rapping and deejaying in his teens, experimenting in the studio with his brothers Damian, Julian and Stephen. A label bidding war (which was won by Gee Street/V2), high-profile collaborations with Pras and P. M. Dawn, and roles in two Jamaican films came soon thereafter.

By 2007, he had followed his brothers to the top of the charts. *Radio*, his fifth album, hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Reggae Albums Chart in its first week of release on the strength of its accessible mixture of roots reggae, R&B, hip-hop and pop music. It also earned Marley a fan in singer David Lee Roth, who gave him an opening slot on the recently reunited Van Halen world tour.

Now, Ky-Mani (whose name means "adventurous traveller") is touring in support of his sixth album, *Evolution of a Revolution*. As he prepared to play Grand Cayman's Spring Splash, we caught up with him to chat about his roots, his famous family and how Caribbean culture shaped the man he is today.

**You spent your first eight years in Jamaica, but your mother raised you single-handedly. What role did your father play?**

I lost my dad when I was 5 years of age and moved to Miami when I was 8. But I remember stories my brothers would tell me about my dad picking us up when he was in Kingston. That was a very busy time [in his career]. So as far as family time, there wasn't enough of that, which is understandable, because he had to step forward and fulfil that prophecy. But he still plays a very important part of my life today. I was raised without a father, but I've always had conversations with my mother, my grandmother and my brothers about what my dad would want for us and how he'd want us to go about it as disciplined children.

**When you grow up the son of a Marley and the brother of Marleys, is it a given that you're going to go into the music business?**

No, that's not a given. We're not steered into the music business. My older brother Rohan does coffee, and my sisters are into designing and various other things. But then you do have the Marley 5 — Ziggy, Damian, Julian, Stephen and me. We choose to strive in music.

**Was there a certain age when you realised that this is what you wanted to do with your life?**

My career started in a strange way. I was at a friend's house who played a sound system, and one night he asked me to give him a dub take. I said, "I'm not a singer." He said, "It doesn't









matter." So I started to sing. A producer walked into the studio and said, "You have a nice tone. Maybe you should give this a shot!" I started going to his home studio every Saturday for two hours. Even during the process of writing and recording my first songs, it didn't dawn on me that music was going to be my career. I didn't grow up wanting to be a musician. As a child, I would rather be playing football or basketball. But now it is a passion of mine, and something I love dearly.

**How did the roots of Jamaican culture impact the man you ultimately became?**

Well, the music of Jamaica speaks of revolution, of an oppressed people who, in order to survive, had to become rebellious. Jamaican music has always been at the forefront of the movement to unite Africa, even more so than Africans themselves. When Nelson Mandela was incarcerated, the majority of the "Free Mandela!" songs were coming out of

Jamaica. We're a very small island, but what we stand for makes us leaders on a global forefront, and a lot of our message comes through in our music. So, as a man, Jamaican music gives me the courage to go out there and speak up for what's right.

**What was it like growing up with your dad's legacy? Did it influence you one way or another in terms of your musical career?**

It's overwhelming to describe what it's like to be part of such a great legacy. This man had so many people around the world look up to him for so many different reasons. There are no words for what I feel when I'm in some remote village and there's no electricity or running water, but here comes a little 5-year-old running out in a Bob Marley T-shirt. It is beyond amazing for me seeing what he means to so many people and what his message is. That motivates us [to] continue to carry on his legacy as much as we can, but doing it in our own right.



**How do you work with and interact with your brothers?**

We've always been a close family with a great sense of responsibility. We know the legacy we are coming from and what that means to so many people. We know what our father would want of us, and we as a family try to stay within the guidelines of what that should be. Outside of that, we're still human beings, just like the family next door. We argue, we fight, we hug, we make up and we continue living. For years we have thought about doing an album with everybody together. We toured together for months around the world, and you would catch us performing together at certain times. So we are a very close family. There is never anything going on that anyone is in the dark about.

**What are your feelings toward the Caribbean and Caribbean culture?**

Every time I land in the Caribbean, I land in paradise. When I get off the plane and I stand and my feet [are] in the soil, I feel connected to the earth. I feel that rhythm. I feel it stirring in the people. I feel the rhythm that is in the atmosphere. I see the dancing without the music playing. This is home — for me, the most beautiful place in the world. It's the food, the music, the way we talk. It's everything.

**Is there anything in particular you recommend for first-time Jamaica visitors to do when they get to the island?**

It is a land with so many beautiful sights to behold, so rich with colours, so many stories to be told and so many lessons to be learned. Of course, I would always tell you to visit the Bob Marley Museum. [Laughs.] I'm from a little town called Falmouth, just outside of Montego Bay. When I'm there, I'm always on the Martha Brae River. That's my little piece of paradise, where I go to meditate and take a nice raft ride along the river.

**Have you ever been to the Cayman Islands before?**

Once, but it was a long time ago. When I was there, I was shooting a movie. Hopefully when I'm there for the Spring Splash I'll have more time to explore.

**What's next for you?**

I'm working on a new album right now, but I don't have a title for it yet. I'm getting ready to release the first single... and it's called "Get High." I also have a foundation that I'm a part of called the Love Over All Foundation, and we have some projects coming together. We start with education. We try to supply Jamaican schools all over the countryside that no one really pays attention to with computers, desks and the tools needed in order for these children to progress. We are here to open doors and give children a chance that they may not get if we're not there to provide them.

**QUICK HITS WITH KY-MANI MARLEY****ONE THING YOU NEVER TRAVEL WITHOUT?**

Headphones and a laptop. Usually when I'm in the hotel room writing, recording or producing.

**WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?**

I'm listening to this album by The Passenger. I'm also listening to Lyacane, who just released an album coming out of Jamaica.

**ONE THING YOU LISTEN TO THAT MIGHT SURPRISE FANS?**

Kenny Rogers. I saw him in concert eight years ago. In Jamaica, we listen to a lot of country music.

**THOUGHTS ON THE DUBSTEP PHENOMENON?**

I love the fusion of different sounds and genres. That's what music is about.