

Biography

Theron Shaw

Trinidian guitarist, composer, arranger, and educator **Theron "Terry" Shaw** is one of the most expressive and culturally rooted voices in contemporary Caribbean jazz. Celebrated for his fluid fingerstyle technique, rich harmonic vocabulary, and deep reverence for West African and Caribbean rhythmic heritage, Shaw has spent decades shaping the landscape of modern Kaiso Jazz and acoustic world fusion.

Grounded in both formal discipline and authentic island folk traditions, Shaw's signature sound seamlessly bridges complex jazz structures with native calypso, folk, and steelband syncopations. As a solo recording artist, he has released three essential albums in the Caribbean jazz canon: his debut *The Sojourn* (2003), *Right Here Right Now* (2007), and *Gumbo Caribe* (2014). Each project highlights his ability to craft melodies that are intellectually compelling, rhythmically inventive, and deeply soulful.

Throughout his career, Shaw has been a cornerstone of major regional ensembles and collaborative projects. As a core member of the acclaimed Caribbean fusion group **Élan Parlé**, his guitar work helped define their groundbreaking soundscapes. He is also a long-standing collaborator with premier regional jazz luminaries, performing and recording alongside vocal powerhouses like **Vaughnette Bigford**, Berklee professor and bassist **Ron Reid** (notably on Reid's *Precious Metals* project), as well as icons like Andre Tanker, Liam Teague, and Ernán López-Nussa.

Over the years, Theron has toured and performed with a wide variety of acts including The Roaring Lion, Lord Pretender, and played all around the Caribbean as a member of the Kaiso Jazz Workshop with Michael Tobas. His recording credits include French vocalist Philippe Lavil, pannist Liam Teague, Andre Tanker, Élan Parlé, and bassist Ron Reid. He accompanied the Mighty Sparrow, Cuban pianist Ernán López-Nussa and the multi-faceted Bobby Carcasses, Jeff Haynes, Tony Mason, Anise Hadeed,



Arturo Tappin, David Rudder, Andy Narell, Ella Andall, Andre Tanker, Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe, Mavis John, The Noble Douglas Dance Company, Vaughnette Bigford and the Trinidad Theatre Workshop.

Beyond the stage, Shaw holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of the West Indies and serves as a dedicated music educator in the secondary school system and tertiary institutions like UTT. A true multidisciplinary artist, he is also an accomplished painter and photographer, continually exploring the intersection between Caribbean heritage, visual art, and musical expression.

Selected Highlights & Credentials

- **Solo Discography:** Composer and leader behind three acclaimed Caribbean jazz albums—*The Sojourn* (2003), *Right Here Right Now* (2007), and *Gumbo Caribe* (2014).
- **Ensemble Member & Collaborator:** Core guitarist for **Élan Parlé**; frequent featured performer with vocalist **Vaughnette Bigford** and bassist **Ron Reid**.
- **Recording Credits:** Featured on landmark regional releases including Ron Reid's *Precious Metals*, Andre Tanker's *Children of the Big Bang*, and Liam Teague's *Emotions of Steel*.
- **Stage Veteran:** Featured performer at premier regional and international festivals, including Tobago Jazz Experience, Jazz Artists on the Greens, Caribbean Jazz Waves, and Pan Ramajay.
- **Pedagogy & Education:** Music educator supervising CSEC and tertiary-level music matriculation (UWI / UTT).

Media Spotlight: Featured Performances & Releases

- **Solo Catalog (*The Sojourn*, *Right Here Right Now*, *Gumbo Caribe*):** Essential Kaiso Jazz recordings exploring reinterpreted folk rhythms, French Caribbean mazurkas, and contemporary fusion.
- **Collaborations with Élan Parlé:** Live and studio recordings showcasing intricate ensemble guitar arrangements and Caribbean jazz improvisation.
- **Stage Features with Vaughnette Bigford & Ron Reid:** Premier live concert showcases highlighting acoustic vocal accompaniment and low-end bass-and-guitar interplay.

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