

Biography

David Boothman

Master Artist, Pianist, Composer, Visual Artist, and Cultural Educator

David Boothman is a celebrated Trinidadian multi-disciplinary master artist, pianist, composer, painter, and educator whose career spans over 45 years at the forefront of Caribbean fine arts, heritage, and jazz fusion. Descending from a prominent artistic lineage—as the nephew of renowned dance and visual arts pioneers Boscoe Holder and Geoffrey Holder—he stands as a foundational pillar and "cultural engineer" in the evolution of modern Caribbean arts. His interdisciplinary philosophy seamlessly bridges traditional regional rhythms with contemporary modalities across both sound and visual media.

In 1980, Boothman was awarded a Trinidad and Tobago government scholarship through the Prime Minister's Best Village Program, going on to graduate with honors from the Pratt Institute in New York. As a visual artist and colorist, his work explores the mystical connections between color relationships, line, texture, and musical frequency. His paintings, graphic works, and heritage portraits have been exhibited internationally at prestigious institutions, including the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum, the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C., the National Museum of Trinidad and Tobago, and the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas.

A pioneer of the Kaiso Jazz movement in the 1970s alongside his brother Michael Boothman, he transformed regional composition by embedding traditional calypso baseline cadences into extended modal jazz harmonies and improvisational frameworks. He was also an active contributor to the evolution of studio production and early soca rhythms. Over his musical career, he founded



both the Caribbean Art Jazz Ensemble (CAJE) and the Caribbean Renaissance Jazz Ensemble (CRJazz).

Boothman served as Master Artist in Residence at the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA) at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in 2016 and has sat on the board of CreativeTT. As the founder of the Caribbean Renaissance Foundation, his life's work continues to bridge folk traditions, youth mentorship, contemporary jazz, visual expression, and interdisciplinary arts education across the region and its global diaspora.

Featured Highlights & Accomplishments

- **Co-Founder, Kaiso Jazz Workshop:** Pioneered the integration of indigenous calypso rhythms with post-bop modal jazz harmonies, playing a pivotal role in establishing the genre of Caribbean Jazz.
- **Founder, Caribbean Renaissance Foundation:** Created a strategic engine dedicated to cultural revitalization, youth mentorship, and preserving regional identity against commercial erosion.
- **Master Artist in Residence (UTT):** Directed performance research and established the Caribbean Renaissance Jazz Ensemble (CRJazz) at the University of Trinidad and Tobago's Academy for the Performing Arts (APA).
- **International Exhibitions, Soundtracks & Governance:** Featured in international art galleries, composed documentary soundtracks and commercial compositions, served on the board of CreativeTT, and received numerous accolades for Arts in Education and multi-media arts productions across the U.S. and Caribbean.

Media Spotlight & Performances

- **Cultural Discourse:** *David Boothman: The Artistic Journey and Societal Reflections* — An in-depth conversation exploring artistic philosophy, human nature, and the preservation of cultural integrity.
- **Live Performance:** *David Boothman & Caribbean Renaissance Ensemble at Sagittarius Jazz Night* — Highlights his live piano improvisations, regional collaborations, and custom Caribbean jazz arrangements.
- **Live Performance:** Watch the [David Boothman & Caribbean Renaissance Ensemble at Sagittarius Jazz Night](#) to experience his live piano improvisations and Caribbean jazz arrangements.

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