

Jamesie Project / Andrea E. Leland producer
TAPE D: RADIO INTERVIEW JUNE 21, 2003
(K = Kathleen McManus, J = Jamesie, C = Caller)

18:57:19

(K) STATION IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. GOOD AFTERNOON..THAT WAS DA BRAT IN LOVE WIT YOU. IT IS 20 MINUTES AWAY FROM 1 OCLOCK AND I'M IN THE STUDIO TODAY ...SATURDAY AFTERNOON...HAPPY WEEKEND, HAPPY SATURDAY TO EVERYBODY...WITH MR. JAMESIE OR JAMESIE BREWSTER OR I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OTHER NAMES YOU GOT. MAYBE I SHOULDN'T CALL THEM ALL. HI. HOW YOU DOIN?

(J) I DUNNO.

(K) GOOD GOOD THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY. WE'RE GOING TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT QUELBE. YOU NEED TO FILL ME IN . I KNOW THAT YOU WERE BORN ON ST. CROIX. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS AGO THOUGH. I AIN'T SAYING. BECAUSE I REALLY DON'T KNOW. BUT YOU WERE BORN WHEN THINGS WERE VERY DIFFERENT HERE RIGHT JAMESIE?

(J) YEA

(K) AND YOUR MUSIC COME OUT OF THAT TIME.

(J) YEA, BY MY FATHER.

(K) BY YOUR FATHER?

(J) YEA.

(K) WELL, WHAT DID YOUR FATHER HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR MUSIC?

(J) WELL WHEN I WAS LIVIN IN CONCORDIA WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD THEY USED TO UH BE PLAYIN DE UH MUSIC UNDERNEATH THE TAMMIN TREE. AND THEN UH SEE HE HAD HE WAS A NICE FATHER BUT HE WAS FUNNY WITH HIS INSTRUMENT.

(K) WHAT DO YOU MEAN AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DAT?

(J) WELL YOU KNOW ONE DAY I LOOK HE REST DE GUITAR DOWN. I WENT AND JUST TAKE MY FINGER TO TOUCH THE STRING. AND HE WENT AND HE COME DOWN AND HE SAID WHAT DID I TELL YOU? I SAID WELL I JUST ONLY TOUCH IT. SO HE JUST GRAB A PIECE OF STICK AND HE HIT ME ONE LASH ON MYFINGER.

(K) LAWD HAVE MERCY.

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(J) DON'T TOUCH LAWD DON'T TOUCH IT BOY. AND THEN AFTERWARD I USED TO BEEN ROUND

(K) HOW OLD WERE YOU THEN JAMESIE. DO YOU REMEMBER?

(J) 9.

20:50

(K) 9. UH HUH. AND THAT WAS YOU WERE BORN IN FREDERIKSTED AREA, THE WEST END RIGHT?

(J) ESTATE CONCORDIA

(K) ESTATE CONCORDIA. OK.

(J) MY GRANDMOTHER IS WHO DELIVER ME.

(K) REALLY? IN YOUR HOME?

(J) UH HUH.

(K) THOSE WERE THE DAYS EVERYONE WAS DELIVERED AT HOME, RIGHT?

(J) UH HUH. AND THEN SHE WALK WITH ME FROM CONCORDIA TO TOWN.

(K) RIGHT AFTER YOU WERE BORN?

(J) UH HUH

(K) WHAT?

(J) UH HUH

(K) AND YOU WERE WALKING TOO ALREADY?

(J) NO NO SHE CARRY ME AS A BABY.

(K) RIGHT

(J) YOU KNOW MY MUDDER SHE LEAVE MY MUDDER AND SHE HAD SEND ACROSS TO ASK TELL THEM TO MEET THE AMBULANCE TO MEET HER. AND THE AMBULANCE MEET HER RIGHT BY JOHN (DORE'S?? sp?) BLACKSMITH SHOP.

(K) OH YEA ? WHICH WAS RIGHT IN FREDERIKSTED?

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(J) RIGHT IN FREDERIKSTED.

(K) WHAT CORNER WAS THAT?

(J) THAT'S RIGHT OUT AS YOU'RE LEAVIN TOWN TO GO OUT TO LA GRANGE

(K) YEA

(J) IT'S RIGHT JOHN (DOKE'S??? SP) BLACKSMITH SHOP GOING IN WAS ON THE
RIGHT HAND SIDE RIGHT TO TURN TO GO UP THE

(K) AND THE AMBULANCE MEET YOU THERE?

(J) YEA

21: 47

(K) WOW. SO WHEN DID YOU WHEN DID YOU GET YOUR FIRST INSTRUMENT? SO
YOU COULDN'T TOUCH ANY OF YOUR FATHER'S INSTRUMENTS (j) no no no (K) BUT
HE USED TO PLAY, YOU USED TO HEAR HIM PLAY AND HEAR HIS MUSIC?

(J) AND 11YEARS WHEN I WAS 11 YEARS OLD THERE WAS A MAN NAMED MR.
NILSSON HAD LIVIN ACROSS OVER IN WHIM. AND HE HAD A SON AND HE HAD A
GUITAR SO HE USED TO COME OVER THERE WITH US. YOU KNOW. SO I USED TO GET
THE, YOU KNOW WE START WATCHIN MY FATHER FINGER THEM AND I START
DOING IT. BUT THEN AFTERWARD I WENT IN THAT TIME THEY USED TO HAVE
THEM SARDINE PAN.

(K) YEA YEA

(J) SO THERE WAS A MAN NAMED MR. MAN JONES. HE I LOOK AT HIM AND YOU
KNOW THOSE BIG SPIKE NAILS WE MAKE A FIRE AND WE USED TO PUT THE NAIL IN
THE FIRE TIL IT TURN RED AND WHEN THE NAIL TURN RED WE PUT IT IN A PIECE
OF WOOD. AND JUST PUT A TAKE A HAMMER AND HAMMER IT IN WHILE IT HOT AND
USED TO BURN THROUGH THE WOOD AND THAT'S THE WAY WE USED TO MAKE
THE KEYS FOR THE BANJO.

(K) AMAZING. AND YOU USED THE SARDINE TIN TO MAKE THE BANJO

(J) UH HUH

(K) YOUR FIRST BANJO WAS FROM A SARDINE TIN. (J) yea (K) OH MY GOD.
23:13

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(J) AND THEN I HAD MAKE 2 OF THEM. AND THEN THERE WAS A BOY NAMED CYRIL NILSSON. HE LIVIN DOWN I THINK IN WHIM OR SOMEWHERE AROUND THERE.

(K) HE'S STILL ALIVE.

(J) YEA. HE WAS A FIREMAN. AND THEN ALL LIKE 3, 4 OF US EVERY NIGHT USED TO WALK OUT IN THE ROAD BE OUT THERE AND WALK UP THE ROAD AND BEEN PLAYIN AND IT'S FROM THAT WE JUST I JUST START GOIN.

(K) YOU JUST START

(J) UH HUH

23:41

(K) AND I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT BANDS. YOU'VE BEEN IN QUELBE, WELL, FOR THE QUADRILLE, YOU HAVE A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT THAT. AND YOU WENT ON TO EVENTUALLY FORM YOUR OWN BANDS. MAYBE THE MOST FAMOUS WAS "JAMESIE AND THE HAPPY SEVEN" WHEN OJALDO WAS PLAYING WITH YOU? WAS THAT THE MOST FAMOUS ONE? OR?

(J) WELL I USED TO BE I HAD I USED TO PLAY LATIN BEFORE. THEN AFTER WARD MY FATHER FIND OUT THAT HE COULDN'T GET ME TO STOP. THEN MY GRANDMOTHER WENT IN TOWN AND SHE HAD BOUGHT A GUITAR FOR ME.

(K) OH.

(J) YEA.

(K) YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT. THE SAME ON THAT CARRIED YOU DOWN THE ROAD..

(J) UH HUH. SO I YOU KNOW I TELL YOU SOMETHING. YOU KNOW WHEN IT COME TO THIS CULTURE MUSIC

(K) RIGHT

(J) AND MY FATHER AFTER HE HAD GET SICK, HE HAD GIVEN ME HIS GUITAR. AND I USED TO PLAY IN TOWN. BUT BEFORE I EVER WENT IN TOWN, I USED TO PLAY GO GO WITH MY FATHER. WHEN HE GO TO PLAY AND THEN MY FATHER USED TO PLAY GUITAR. THEN AFTERWARD MR. FONSA JOSEPH HE TOLD MY FATHER HE WAS UM WHAT HIS NAME THERE FONSA MESSER DIDN'T COME SO HE HAD NEED A SQUASH MAN AND THEN I GET THERE AND I START TO PLAY WITH THE SQUASH BECAUSE I

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HAD KNOW ABOUT THAT AND THEN I HE DIDN'T MR. MESSER DIDN'T COME AND THEN I PLAY THE SQUASH.

(K) AND THAT WAS IT YOU GONE.

(J) AND THEN I START TO PLAY WITH THEM.

(K) NEVER LOOKED BACK.

(J) YEA.

25:27

(K) WELL I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE OF THE FINEST MUSICIANS I'VE EVER HEARD AND CERTAINLY THE MOST TRUE PROBABLY TO THE UH CULTURE MUSIC, THE SCRATCH BAND OR QUELBE OR HOWEVER. THERE'S A LOT OF NAMES FOR IT BUT IT'S THE CULTURE MUSIC REALLY. AND UH YOU'VE WRIT I KNOW YOU TAKE OFFENSE WHEN SOMEONE SAYS YOU'VE WRITTEN A LOT BECAUSE YOU SAY I DON'T WRITE I DON'T WRITE I JUST SING IT AND OTHER PEOPLE WRITE IT DOWN. AND THAT'S THE TRADITION. IT'S AN ORAL TRADITION. THIS TYPE OF MUSIC IS AN ORAL TRADITION, RIGHT?

(J) YEA WELL YOU SEE UH WE AS FAR AS GO I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPEN HAD HAPPEN TO MY FATHER BUT MY FATHER ON HIS BED. YOU KNOW ENGLISH CHURCH IN FREDERIKSTED?

(K) YES

(J) OK. WHEN YOU COMIN DOWN PETER CHRISTIAN HILL. WHEN YOU REACH FOR THE CORNER TO ENGLISH CHURCH YOU GOIN STRAIGHT GOIN BACK DOWN TO CATLIC SCHOOL. WHERE BERT BRYANT FATHER HAD A PROPERTY THAT THE HOUSE FALL DOWN. WELL THEY HAD ANOTHER HOUSE NEXT TO THAT THEN HE HAD AN UPSTAIRS. WELL MY FATHER WERE MOVE FROM CONCORDIA AND WERE LIVIN THERE AND WHEN HE TOOK SICK MY FATHER IN HIS BED CALL ME AND HE TELL ME HE SAID JAMESIE HE SAID LET ME TELL YOU I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS THING UP. YOU UNNERSTAND?

(K) SO

(J) SO I JUST DECIDE HE ASK ME AND THEN WHEN HE TURN OVER HIS GUITAR TO ME THEN I ACTUALLY WENT IN IT. AND HOW I GET OJALDO WILLIAMS. THAT ONE DAY WE WAS PLAYIN RIGHT THERE AT PAN BUSH

(K) RIGHT

27:13

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(J) AND THEN A MAN BY THE NAME MR. ARNOLD CAME BY THERE.

(K) LEROY ARNOLD?

(J) HIS FATHER. HE A OLD MAN. SO HE SAID TO ME UM WHY YOU DON'T GET OJALDO TO BLOW FOR YOU? SO I SAID TO HIM, BUT HE'S PLAYIN WITH PARRIS. SO HE SAID UM WELL I GONNA GO AND TALK TO HIM SO HE WENT AND HE SPEAK TO PARRIS. UH HE SPEAK TO UM JALDO AND JALDO SAY UM WELL I WOULD PASS BY THERE AND HE CAME BY AND THEN WE START TO UH

(K) PRACTICE

(J) PRACTICE. AND THEN ONE DAY I WAS PLAY WE WERE PLAYIN AND THEN WHEN I LOOK I SEE PARRIS CAME BY AND HE START TO THREATEN ME.

(K) WHAT!

(J) UH HUH.

(K) WOW.

(J) YEA. AND THEN JALDO TELL ME DON'T PAY HIM NO MIND. AND FROM THAT I WENT. BUT I USED TO PLAY IN A LOT OF DEM BAR IN FREDERIKSTED.

28:29

(K) YEA. THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF LIVE MUSIC ALL OVER THE PLACE HUH? MAYBE WE COULD BRING THOSE DAYS BACK.. I WOULD LOVE IT.

(J) WELL YOU KNOW AS I TELL YOU ALL AS I SAY IT YOU KNOW. I...IT'S HERE I BORN AND YOU KNOW I WANT TO SEE THAT THIS COME BACK LIKE HOW IT WAS. BUT ONLY ONE THING I NOTICIN NOW THAT EVEN TO ST. GERARD HALL. I KNOW WHEN WE USED TO PLAY IN FREDERIKSTED WHEN WE HEAR SAY UM QUADRILLE DANCE (k)right THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE GOT MUSIC IN FREDERIKSTED

(K) WELL THAT'S TRUE, YEA

(J) YOU KNOW

(K) YEA. SO THAT EVERYBODY COULD COME OUT

(J) EVERYBODY USED TO GO

(K) INSTEAD OF GO 10 DIFFERENT WAYS

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(J) WE USED TO PLAY DOWN AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE DOWN THERE.

(K) RIGHT

(J) AND WHEN WE AND WHEN WE PLAY DOWN THERE IT FULL OF PEOPLE.

(K) YEA

(J) BUT NOW IT'S YOU KNOW

29:23

(K) ON AND OFF. AND THERE'S NOT SO MANY. BUT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO BRING SOME OF IT BACK. YOU KNOW.

(J) BUT I COULD TELL YOU KATHLEEN. I'M I'M SERIOUS. THE ONLIEST TIME I WILL GIVE UP IS WHEN THE GOOD LORD SEND FOR ME.

(K) ALL RIGHT

(J) YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN

(K) AND YOU STILL DEY HERE AS YOU SAY.

(J) AND ME AIN NEED NO HEAP A MAN TO MAKE MUSIC I COULD MAKE MUSIC MESELF AND TWO MAN.

(K) YOU STILL MAKE BANJO OUT OF WELL YOU DON'T USE NO SARDINE TIN ANYMORE.

(J) NO. NO NO

(K) YOU WRITE SONG ABOUT IT BUT UH NOW YOU USE THE CHEESE TIN AND EVERYTHING YOU STILL MAKIN BANJO...

(J) THEY GIVE ME THEY GIVE ME TWO CASES OF THOSE CHEESE TIN FROM DENMARK.

(K) RIGHT.

(J) YOU KNOW.

29:59

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(K) YEA. WELL JAMESIE I TELL YOU WHAT. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LISTEN PRETTY QUICK TO UH ONE OF YOUR SONGS OFF OF THE "JAMESIE...BRUKEN OFF FUNGI" WITH THE MUSICAL KAFOONERS ALBUM. AND UM I THINK THAT I WANT TO LISTEN TO IF IT'S OK WITH YOU I LOVE ALL OF THESE SONGS ON HERE BUT ONE OF MY FAVORITE IS "FIRE IN DE WATER".

(J) WELL YOU COULD PUT WHAT YOU LIKE YOU KNOW.

(K) IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU? I COULD CHOOSE?

(J) YOU CHOOSE.

(K) I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE NEXT TIME.

(J) YOUSE THE LEADER.

(K) (SINGIN) FOLLOW THE LEADER LEADER.. ANYWAY THIS IS JAMESIE, JAMESIE BREWSTER IN THE STUDIO TODAY. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH JAMESIE. AND HE IS CERTAINLY A TRADITION BEARER AS THEY CALL IT NOW. HE'S A CULTURE MAN. HE'S A GUY WHO KNOWS HIMSELF AND KNOWS WHAT IT IS TO BE A CRUZAN AND HE STILL PRACTICES THAT EVERYDAY. AND I REALLY APPRECIATE IT. AND WE'RE GOING TO SEE IF WE CAN GET SOME OF YOUR MUSIC AND AS WELL AS ALL THE PEOPLE OUT THERE STILL PLAYING QUELBE AND SCRATCH BAND A LITTLE AIR PLAY OK?

(J) YOU GO AHEAD NOW.

(K) OK. THANKS A LOT. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LISTEN TO A FEW COMMERCIALS THEN BE BACK WITH ONE OF JAMESIE BREWSTERS SONGS "FIRE IN DE WATER" ON #1 ISLE 95.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

K IS KATHLEEN C IS CALLER

36:14

(K) DO YOU KNOW THAT MUSIC? DO YOU KNOW QUELBE, SCRATCH BAND MUSIC?

(C) HUH?

(K) DO YOU KNOW THAT MUSIC THAT WAS PLAYIN BEFORE? THE TRADITIONAL MUSIC?

(C) NO

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(K) YOU DON'T? HOW OLD ARE YOU?

(C) 13.

(K) 13?

(C) YEA

(K) HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THAT BEFORE?

(C) YEA BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.

(K) YOU DON'T LIKE IT? WHY NOT?

(C) ME AIN KNOW.

(K) ME AIN KNOW.. HA HA MAYBE BECAUSE YOU NEVER HEAR IT RIGHT?

(C) YEA

(K) ANYWAY, WE GONNA HAVE A LOT OF IT ON AND OFF SO MAYBE YOU CAN COME OUT AND MEET SOME OF THE MUSICIANS AND SEE IF YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. RIGHT?

(C) ALL RIGHT.

(K) OK WE'LL GET LIL WHAT IS IT BOW WOW?

(C) YEA

(K) OK. WE'LL GET THAT ON FOR YOU. WHO'S YOUR NUMBER 1?

(C) ISLE 95. BYE

(K) BYE

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
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(K) ISLE 95

(C) HELLO I'D LIKE TO HEAR CHINGY RIGHT THARR

(K) CHINGY RIGHT THARR? WHO IS THIS?

(C) YEA

(K) WHO IS THIS?

(C) HUH?

(K) WHO IS THIS?

(C) SHELLY

(K) OK. YOU KNOW WHAT. YOU HAVE TO TURN YOUR RADIO DOWN A LITTLE BIT CAUSE I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

(C) OK.

(K) OK? OK NOW I CAN HEAR YOU. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

(C) SHELBY

(K) SHELBY?

(C) YEA

(K) AND WHAT PART OF ST. CROIX ARE YOU CALLING FROM?

(C) UH THE MIDDLE

(K) THE MIDDLE KIND OF PART?

(C) YEA

(K) OK ARE YOU HAVIN FUN?

(C) YEA

(K) ALL RIGHT. AND YOU WANT TO HEAR CHINGY RIGHT THAR?

(C) UH HUH.

(K) YOU LIKE THAT SONG?

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(C) UH HUH.

(K) OK. DID YOU HEAR THE SONG BEFORE THAT WE PLAYED FROM JAMESIE? WERE YOU LISTENING TO THE RADIO BEFORE?

(C) UMMM WHO?

(K) FROM JAMESIE BREWSTER? DID YOU HEAR THAT AND WE PLAYED THE SONG FIRE IN DE WATER OH LAHD. DO YOU KNOW THAT SONG?

(C) NO. I DIDN'T HEAR IT.

(K) YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT.

(C) I JUST TURNED IT ON..

(K) OH., YOU JUST TURNED IT ON. WELL YOU KNOW COMING UP WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING TO JAMESIE BREWSTER AND HE PLAYS MUSIC THAT WAS INVENTED ON THIS ISLAND. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANY OF THAT?

(C) NO.

(k) NO? YOU/VE ONLY HEARD LIKE STATESIDE MUSIC RIGHT?

(C) UH HUH

(K) UH HUH. WELL COMING UP YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR SOME MUSIC THAT WAS BORN ON YOUR ISLAND OK?

(C) OK

(C) AND I'LL GET TO YOUR REQUEST. BUT YOU GOT TO CALL ME BACK AND TELL ME HOW YOU LIKE THIS MUSIC FROM JAMESIE OK?

(C) OK

(K) YOU PROMISE?

(C) I DON'T KNOW.

(K) YOU DON'T KNOW?

(C) WELL....

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(K) I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE YOU KNOW...I'LL COME BY AND FIND YOU

(C) NO YOU DON'T OK

(K) OK WHO'S YOUR NUMBER 1?

(C) ISLE 95