

Deep within the bubbling Jamaican cauldron of ska, mento, and soul.... Nearlin "Lynn" Taitt called for the rhythm drop that sparked rocksteady and made the subsequent emergence of reggae inevitable. A Trinidad-born guitarist who relocated to Kingston in 1962, Taitt became a workhorse session player, arranger and composer in the 1960s. As a longtime Skatalites member, he backed everyone from Toots & The Maytals to the Wailers to Desmond Dekker, as well as the countless other artists who came to Kingston to make records; by 1968, his involvement spanned some 1,500 recordings. Today, Taitt lives in Canada and continues to make a living as a music maker. In 2006, he teamed up with a group of young Boston-area musicians -- all enthusiasts of traditional Jamaican sounds who attend the New England Conservatory of Music -- for a session that culminated in a collaboration with third stream jazz composer Ran Blake, a senior faculty head at the conservatory and legend in his own right. Seven musical vignettes from the recent session are interspersed with interviews with Taitt, Blake, and several of his past and present band mates. This film pays tribute to one of the most prolific prime movers of traditional Jamaican music and spotlights his ongoing vitality as a musician and composer.

Lynn Taitt: Rocksteady a Bovineska Production

Original music by Eli Kessler, Andrew Fenlon, Ran Blake and Lynn Taitt

Cinematography by Matea Marsic

Session recording engineer Ramsey Tantawi

Sound mixing London PM

Edited by Michelle Mothra Millette

Produced and directed by Generoso Fierro

A Bovineska Production

Lynn Taitt: Rocksteady a documentary film, is a Bovineska films production.

Copyright © 2006 Bovineska Films. All rights reserved.

lynn taitt: ROCKSTEADY

*"He invented
a rhythm that
forever changed
Jamaica "*

lynn taitt: ROCKSTEADY

A Documentary by Generoso Fierro