

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME:** PETER THOMAS ASHBOURNE-FIRMAN, CD

**NOM DE PLUME:** PETER ASHBOURNE

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## EDUCATION

### **Schools & Colleges attended**

Berklee College of Music (Boston, Mass., USA)  
University of the West Indies  
Wolmer's High School for Boys  
St. Hugh's Prep School

## DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS

B.Mus. Composition - 1976  
LRSM (Performance) Violin – 1967

## INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

Violin, Piano

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019 Philip Sherlock Lecture on Music in Jamaica  
2013 - 'Senior Music Fellow' University of the West Indies  
2015 Workshops on Interpretation and Production of  
Jamaican Popular Music, Isla Providencia, Colombia  
2007 Lectures and Workshops on the Development  
of Jamaican Popular Music, University of Southern  
Maine, U.S.A.  
2001 – 2013 Edna Manley College/School of Music  
1986 Workshops on Jamaican Art Music and Reggae,  
University for Music and Dramatic Arts, Graz, Austria;  
1976 - 1979 Jamaica School of Music,  
African-American Department

## COMPOSING, ARRANGING, RECORDING & PERFORMING

### MUSIC FOR THEATRE & DANCE

- • 2008 **Reggae Opera 'Mikey'** based on libretto by Prof. Mervyn Morris
- • 2004 **"Purlie"**, Broadway musical (Jamaican Production). **Arranger, Musical Director**
- • 2003 **"Mamma I want to Sing"**, Broadway musical (Jamaican production. **Arranger, Musical Director**
- • 2002 **"Sarafina"**, Broadway musical (Jamaican production). **Arranger, Musical Director**
- • 2001 **"Bubbling Brown Sugar"**, Broadway musical (Jamaican production). **Arranger, Musical Director**
- • 1999 **"Eight O'Clock Jamaica Time – The Gambrill Report"**. **Composer of Musical Satirical Review**  
Book & Lyrics by T. Gambrill
- • 1990 **"It's Time for 8 O'Clock Jamaica Time"**  
**Composer Satirical Review**. Book & Lyrics by T. Gambrill
- • 1989 **'Seefus Dolater – Composer of original Musical**  
Book & Lyrics by Jim & Mary Lowe
- • 1987 **'Garvey' - A Musical, one of a team of composers**. Book & Lyrics by Perry Henzell
- • 1987 **'The Last Eight O'Clock Jamaica Time'**.  
**Composer Satirical Review**. Book & Lyrics by T. Gambrill
- • 1985 **'Puncie'- Composer of original music**. National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica 1985 Season
- • 1983/84 **'Ginneral B'. Composer of original Musical**, LTM Pantomime Season, Book & lyrics by B. Gloudon
- • **1983 'The Return of 8 O'Clock Jamaica Time'**.  
**Composer Satirical Review**. Book & Lyrics by T. Gambrill
- • 1980 **'Everyman- The Ultimate Experience'**.  
**Original musical** based on a morality play  
Book by Trevor Rhone
- • 1980 **'Two Drums for Babylon'- original music** ,  
National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica
- • 1978/79 **'Johnny Reggae'. Composer of original Musical**, LTM Pantomime. Book & Lyrics by B. Gloudon  
**(Attendance record holder)**
- • 1976/77 **'The Witch' - Composer of original Musical**, LTM Pantomime. Book lyrics by Barbara Gloudon
- • 1975 **'All That Glitters' – Composer of musical Comedy/Melodrama**. Book by Tony Gambrill  
Lyrics by Tony Gambrill & Bobby Ghisays

**CLASSICAL COMPOSITIONS**

- 2018 'Three Dances for Steelpan and Orchestra'**
- 2018 'Disney Medley' based on Film Themes**
- 2018 'Colon Man Variations' for Wind Ensemble**
- 2017 'Marley Tribute' for String Quartet**
- 2016 'XAYMACA', Fantasy for Alto Saxophone and Strings**
- 2016 'Kites and Seahorses' for String Quartet**
- 2015 'Leaf In The Wind', Fantasy for Flute solo based on Jamaican Folk Song 'Slave Lament'**
- 2014 'Pass Di Ball', Overture for Orchestra, premiered by The Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA)**
- 2010 'The Hidden Garden', for Oboe and Strings, Dedicated to the victims of the tragic events in May 2010 at Tivoli Gardens**
- 2010 'MAPADUA' - The Monique Younger Melody, for Orchestra**
- 2009 'O'er Our Blue Mountain Fantasy', based on a song by Clyde Hoyte, for String Quartet**
- 2008 'P C Medley', for Alto Saxophone, 2 Violins, Conga and Piano, composed for the visit of Prince Charles**
- 2005 'Five Jamaican Songs', based on Jamaican Folk Songs, for High Voice and Piano**
- 2003 'Ring Games and Jubilee' - Suite based on three Jamaican folk songs, scored for Chamber Orchestra; Commissioned by the European Union Chamber Orchestra**
- 2002 'Carib Colours' - Orchestral piece in four connected movements that employs Caribbean folk melodies and gestures**

- 2003 'Parakeet In De Garden', for Soprano, Clarinet and Piano; or Tenor, Flute and Piano
- 1996 'Folk Suite for String Quartet' - based on Jamaican folk tunes, dedicated to the memory of Robert Lightbourne
- 1995 'Alleluia' - Choral concert piece for Choir & Drums; commissioned by the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation for its 25-Year Celebrations
- 1986 'Avia' - Fantasy for Symphonic Wind Ensemble; commissioned by the University for Music and Dramatic Arts, Graz, Austria
- 1985 'Jamaica Folk', based on Jamaican folk melodies, for String Quartet
- 1985 'Elena and Her Variations', for Soprano Recorder solo
- 1984 'The Fly, the Bell and the Bicycle', for Chamber Orchestra
- 1984 'Little Prelude', for Flute & String Quartet
- 1981 'Jamaican Suite', for Symphonic Wind Ensemble; Commissioned by the American Wind Symphony Orchestra.
- 1963 'Medley of Jamaican Folk Tunes', for Violin and Piano

Numerous shorter works for chamber groups, particularly string quartet, voice and assorted solo instruments

### **POPULAR WORKS**

#### **A number of regional hits, notably:**

**'The Winds of Hope'** - Karen Smith

Arranged & produced, co-written with Alvin Campbell

**'All Fall Down'** - A.J. Brown

Arranged & produced, co-written with Alvin Campbell

**'When You Love'** - A.J. Brown

Arranged & produced, co-written with Alvin Campbell

**'If I Lose Your Love'** - Boris Gardiner, Jannette Silvera,

Anthony & the Imperials, co-written with Dawn Forrester

**Arranged &/or produced:**

**'The Honourable Miss Lou'**-folk album by Louise Bennett

**'Nowhere like Jamaica'** - featuring for AJ Brown

**'Carole in Concert'** - featuring Carole Reid

**'A Gift of Carols'** - featuring Carole Reid

**'Choral Favourites'** – featuring the National Chorale

Arranged **'Folk Songs of Jamaica'**- folk album by Ernie Smith

Musical director for **'Yes M'Dear'**- live album by Louise Bennett

**Arrangements and/or production for several artists including:**

Ernie Smith, I Jah Man, SPM, Vic Taylor, Louise Bennett, Pablo

Moses, Boris Gardiner, A.J. Brown, Beres Hammond, Carole

Reid, University Singers, National Chorale of Jamaica

**Studio musician for many Jamaican artists, also international**

**stars:** Bob Marley, Beres Hammond, Cynthia Schloss, Karen

Smith, Della Manley, Paul Simon, Manu Dibango, Eddie

Kendricks, Eric Gayle

**Session leader/co-arranger for the CLIO Award-winning**

**'Air -Jamaica' advertising campaign - North America (1983)**

Contractor/leader for three Air Jamaica jingles for North

American market

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL MUSIC**

One of the major composer/producers of advertising music in the Caribbean

Extensive catalogue of over 750 jingles (since 1970), includes:

- ◆ ◆ Air Jamaica (5 consecutive campaigns)
- ◆ ◆ Sherwin Williams Paints
- ◆ ◆ Appleton Rum
- ◆ ◆ Red Stripe Beer (3 consecutive campaigns)
- ◆ ◆ HTB Easter Buns
- ◆ ◆ Grace Cock Soup
- ◆ ◆ Stone Ginger Wine

- ◆ ◆ Juici Patty
- ◆ ◆ Delite Foods
- ◆ ◆ Kentucky Fried Chicken TV
- ◆ ◆ AT&T '0-800 collect' campaign
- ◆ ◆ Berger Paints
- ◆ ◆ Juici Patties
- ◆ ◆ Coca Cola (Jamaican & Caribbean jingles)
- ◆ ◆ Share of the electronic media jingle market during the 70's and 80's was consistently over 60%

**Incidental music and soundtracks for numerous promotional and documentary films**, including Air Jamaica, Victoria Mutual Building Society, Jamaica Broilers Group

### **FILM MUSIC**

Music for '**Raising Cane**', four-part Documentary on Sugar Cane

'All Fall Down'- single from the A.J. Brown album 'Rhyme or Reason', used in feature films, '**The Fourth Protocol**', '**The Howling III**'

**Soundtrack** for '**Human Roulette**'- an AIDS Docu-drama, produced for Jamaica and the Caribbean region

**Main theme**, link and incidental music for '**Royal Palm Estate**', Jamaica's premiere television soap opera

### **LIVE PERFORMANCE**

- \* **Violin and Piano since age eight**, solo & ensemble
- \* **Founder / Leader / Musical Director** of 70's pop singing group '**The Peter Ashbourne Affair**'
- \* **Leader** of the '**Pimento Players**', a classical string quartet
- \* **Leader/arranger/keyboards, jazz/pop/ group** '**Ashes**'
- \* 1995, 1997 Bandleader/pianist – **Randy Crawford Shows** in Jamaica
- \* **Musical Director, Jamaica Music Industry Awards (JAMI) Awards Shows** 1986 -1993
- \* **Musical Director- Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) Song Contest** finals - 1990, Kingston, Jamaica
- \* **Musical Director/arranger/conductor, Prime Minister's Gala Concerts**, Jamaica 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005
- \* **Founder/Musical Director/composer/arranger/conductor, E-Park Band** (11 piece big band), 2002 –

- \* **Orchestra Arranger/conductor/ musical director, Beres Hammond Shows, 2003 - New York and Miami**
- \* **Musical Director/arranger/ pianist, Rising Stars and Digicel Stars Competition, Jamaica 2004 -**
- \* **Musical Director/composer/arranger/conductor, Opening Ceremony, ICC Cricket World Cup, West Indies 2007**
- \* **Musical Director/composer/arranger/conductor, Beres Hammond Show 'A Moment in Time', integrating the 'Sugar Hill Orchestra' from Harlem, Kingston 2007**
- \* **Conductor/musical director/arranger 'Jamaica Festival Orchestra & Grand Chorus of Jamaica' Performing at Grand Galas 2008, 2009, 2012; Golden Gala 2008**
- \* **Guest conductor for Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Ja. Tour 2012**
- \* **Musical Director/arranger for John Holt, Luciano and UB 40 at Eindhoven Reggae Festival Holland, 2013, conducting the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra**
- \* **Guest conductor for Youth Orchestra of the Americas, 2014**

## **RECORDINGS**

- 1988 **'Rhyme or Reason'** - featuring A. J. Brown
- 2001 **'Blind Man Swimming'** - adult contemporary CD

## **AWARDS**

- 1963 First Prize for Violin Solo, First Jamaica Festival Competition
- 1984 Recipient of the Radio Jamaica Special Award for 'Consistently High Standard of Musicianship'
- 1984 Recipient for 'Semola Cereal' jingle as overall best commercial of that year
- 1986 Recipient for 'Jade Garden Restaurant' and 'HTB Easter Bun' jingle, for best use of music in a commercial
- 1992 Recipient of AAJ (Advertising Agency Association of Jamaica) National Creative Award - 'Special Prize for Musical Excellence'
- 1993 JAMI - (Jamaica Music Industry) Award winner for song 'The Winds of Hope'

- 2001 Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival 'Millennium Music Contributor Award'
- 2002 Jamaica Federation of Musicians Award 'Best Instrumental Album' for 'Blind Man Swimming'
- 2002 Wings of Songs Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Music in Jamaica'
- 2004 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Music
- 2011 President's Award for Technology and Culture from the University of Technology (UTECH), Jamaica
- 2012 Recipient of National Honour - Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD)
- 2018 Recipient of Gold Musgrave Medal by the Institute of Jamaica
- 2018 Wolmer's Old Boy's Association Gold Award

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2013 '**Two Turning Points in Jamaican Popular Music**' Lecture, delivered at Global Reggae Conference 2008, University of the West Indies, included in book '**Global Reggae**', Canoe Press.
- 1993 Co-author / arranger of '**tu tu tu tu**' **Caribbean Beginners Workbook for Soprano or Tenor Recorder** by Rosina C. Moder

### **BOARDS**

- 1993 **Cultural Training Centre**, now Edna Manley College
- 2009 - Co-founder and Director of NGO '**Music Unites Jamaica Foundation**'

### **IN PROGRESS**

**'Nuts & Bolts of Jamaican Popular Music',  
Music theory book** on Jamaican Popular Music Styles