

# Yabba Griffiths

Marcus "Yabba" Griffiths - A multi-talented musician whose repertoire includes vocalist, song writer, performer, arranger, band leader, guitarist and producer, Marcus Yabba Griffiths was born in Manchester Parish, Jamaica, and from age 11 he lived in Kingston. A member of the vocal group, Gold Tones, Griffiths recorded a single entitled "Girl Exposer" for Duke Reid's Treasure Isle Label, and caught the attention of Rendford Cogle (songwriter for the Melodians). Cogle wrote "Lock Love Away" for Griffiths to sing on Sonia Pottinger's Hi-Note label and, in 1969, the song went to #8 on the Top Ten charts in Jamaica. This same year he recorded a song for Clancy Eccles, "Don't Break The Heart That Love You," and later re-recorded the song - and another which was never released - for Clement "Coxsone" Dodd of Studio One.

Moving from singing to playing guitar as a studio musician, Griffiths worked with the great musicians and singers of Jamaica - Bunny Wailer, Soul Syndicate, Gregory Isaacs, Roots Radics, Carlton & Family Man Barrett, Winston Wright, Lynn Taitt, Jackie Mittoo, Robbie Shakespeare, Sly Dunbar, The Tamlins, Bobby Colphat, and many others.

Griffiths joins Charles Hannah and The Graduates in 1972, and 1974 found him touring Jamaica with Solid Foundation. During this time, he recorded the first version of his big hit, "Devil Woman," featuring the Tamlins; Devil Woman was released as a single in the U.S. & U.K. in 1976 and captured "hit song" status in metropolitan New York & Chicago.

In 1976, he toured the U.S. with Big Youth and the band Creation. After the tour ended he joined the Black Eagles (now known as Morgan Heritage), then moved to New York City in 1977 to form Yahtova (God Love). Still based in New York, Griffiths, with Patrick "Shaka" Hochen, founded Traxx in 1979; Griffiths and Traxx relocated to Chicago, IL., in 1980, briefly joining forces with Alligator Records.

Marcus Yabba Griffiths & Traxx released its first album, Thrill of Victory, in 1986 on the New York based Gysai Label; Thrill of Victory was named one of the best new albums of the year in Europe. During the summer of 1989, Griffiths met producer Greg Errico, a founding member of Sly & The Family Stone, and Errico produced Traxx's second album, Reviver, recorded in Sausalito, CA.

Griffiths' third album, Only Yabba, was recorded in 1997 and released in 1998 on Myjaki Records; Only Yabba features 11 songs including "Baby Sugar," a re-make of "Devil Woman." Good Reggae Music, and ep-cd featuring four songs, was released in 2000 on Griffiths' Su-Cram Records label.

Griffiths' next full length album, The Yabba Griffiths Story, released in 2002 on Su-Cram Records label; The Yabba Griffiths Story features 17 songs.

## **BLACKJACK PRODUCTIONS**

**P.O. BOX 562 • SKOKIE, IL 60076-0562 • 847-673-5464**  
**[www.blackjackbands.com](http://www.blackjackbands.com) • [steve@blackjackbands.com](mailto:steve@blackjackbands.com)**