

**Nearlin “Lyn” Taitt - Biography**  
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Nearlin “Lyn” Taitt is famous for his guitar stylings on and arrangements of Jamaican recordings of the 1960s. He played Ska and Reggae but is best known as a creator of the bridge between those styles, Rock Steady music.

Lyn was born on June 22, 1934, in San Fernando Trinidad. The first instrument that he became proficient on was steel drums or pan, winning an island-wide competition as a pan soloist in 1956. Since then, he’s picked up at least 13 other instruments.

Taitt had begun to play guitar with The Dutchy Brothers in 1956. Eventually he started his own group, The Nearlin Taitt Orchestra, which toured Jamaica when the Dutchy Brothers turned down the offer in 1962.

Taitt’s group played Jamaica for two weeks, backing Lord Melody and Lord Blakie. After the tour ended, he joined The Sheiks band in 1963 and then was with The Cavaliers Orchestra.

Taitt’s first recording session was in 1963 for George “King” Edwards. Trumpeter Baba Brooks led the session, which yielded the hit “Shank I Sheck”.

In 1964, Taitt formed The Comets band. The Comets featured Winston Wright on organ, Honeyboy Martin and Glen Miller on vocals, Rupert Dillon on trumpet, Lloyd Spence on bass, Carlton Samuels on tenor saxophone, Lloyd Knibb on drums, and Ron Wilson on trombone.

In 1966, Taitt formed The Jets band. The Jets define Rock Steady, led by Lynn’s “bubbling of notes” style. The group included Lynford “Hux” Brown on guitar, Gladston Anderson on piano, Bryan Atkinson on bass, and Joe Isaacs on drums. Lynn recorded three solo LPs and two others in combination with Ernest Ranglin at Federal Records from 1965 through ’67.

Taitt toured England and Europe for four months as Music Director for Prince Buster in 1967. He first came to Toronto, Canada, on April 8, 1968 and decided to stay by 1969.

In 1997 Taitt released the CD New Oldies on his own Twolyn label. In 1998 he received a Juno or Canadian Reggae Award. Also in 1998 he recorded the One Love CD with Phyllis Dillon, which remains unreleased.

In 2002, Taitt played the Montreal Jazz Festival. He also played and arranged at the Legends of Ska concerts, which were filmed in Toronto and are currently being edited for commercial release.

Since then he’s converted the garage at his house into a recording studio. In June he contributed three songs to the soundtrack of the Japanese film Ruff and Tuff, which focuses on Jamaican music.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006, Lyn played the Montreal Jazz Festival for the second time.

On November 8, 2006, at The Phoenix Theatre in Toronto, Taitt led the band behind Prince Buster, who made an exclusive concert appearance.

**For more information on Lynn Taitt, check [lynntaitt.com](http://lynntaitt.com)**  
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