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## Concerts bring tradition to Lincoln

*Legendary band set to show Rastafarian roots*

By Shelley Mika

Staff writer

With reggae music comes tradition.

Not only do most reggae musicians rely on a similar musical technique of resonating bass lines and rhythmic grooves, they also come from an African heritage with Rastafarian roots.

In that sense, the name Culture fits the legendary reggae band well.

"In Jamaica, when you refer to the word 'culture,' it means African culture and the Rastafarian religion," said Carter Van Pelt, host of the reggae radio show "400 Years" on KZUM-FM (89.3). "The word was really popularized to describe the Rastafarian way, and that's what (the band's) name is about."

The legendary band will make its first Nebraska appearance tonight at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway.

The band's original name fits its roots as well. Before adopting the name "Culture," band leader Joseph Hill and original members Albert Walker and Kenneth Dayes called themselves the "African Disciples."

In 1977, Culture recorded its legendary first album, "Two Sevens Clash," which propelled its career into the big leagues.

"The thing that got Culture to stick in the international sense was 'Two Sevens Clash,'" Van Pelt said.

During the late 1970s, Culture also performed at the renowned "One Love Peace" concert and toured England where it was well-received by reggae and punk fans alike.

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*Duo's saxophone rhythms produces soulful sounds*

By Emily Pyeatt

Staff writer

When craving the warm sun and ocean away from the Nebraskan winter, imagining a Jamaican beach and the sounds of reggae music may be the closest we can get to the beach.

Reggae music has the power to remind us not only of the ocean but also a culture influenced by roots and rock. Rarely does the sound of the saxophone enter the expectation of what reggae music is.

The saxophone duo Saxsemilla will rock Lincoln tonight, along with legendary reggae masters Culture, and prove that the horns can complement their soulful reggae tunes.

Saxsemilla is formed by the duo "Deadly" Headly Bennett and Richie Prafder. Their diverse background in saxophones and other horns will contribute to Saxsemilla's unique sound.

Headly, 67, played with reggae legends, including Bob Marley, for a true Jamaican reggae sound. Prafder brings his blues horn background from his New York roots.

The duo began touring with the band Culture in winter 1998. The live vibes created with Culture have fueled Saxsemilla to continue to tour today.

Saxsemilla will stop in Lincoln to open for Culture and promote its debut album, "Kingston Sessions." The album features guest vocalists vital to the saxophone rhythms including Michael Rose, Ken Boothe and The Mighty Diamonds.



**PREVIEW** Culture and Saxsemilla

**WHERE:** The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway  
**WHEN:** Tonight at 9 p.m.  
**COST:** \$15  
**THE SKINNY:** Reggae master joins saxophone duo for jam session.

## Saxsemilla puts light touch on reggae classics, originals

By Emily Pyeatt

Staff writer

The sounds of the steel drum and the lyrics of the rasta establish a sort of light mood that allows listeners to feel and vibe with reggae music.

The saxophone duo Saxsemilla's debut album, "Kingston Sessions," is packed with diverse reggae tunes.

Reggae music lyrics are generally poetic pleas for awareness of injustices and hypocrisies. Without lyrics, listeners are forced to feel the same pleas completely through the music. Steel

drums and saxophones interestingly suffice for a full-bodied sound.

"Deadly" Headly Bennett and Richie Prafder blend their blues and reggae music on "Kingston Sessions" for a sound that is complemented only by lyrics.

Surprisingly, their horns can also stand alone without leaning toward an easy-listening Kenny G style. "Kingston Sessions" tries to prove that instrumental reggae music possesses equal intensity to reggae music with lyrics.

Saxsemilla's album covers classic reggae melodies, traditional rock music

and original songs with equal conviction.

"Kingston Sessions" opens with the classic "Pass the Kutchie" with a rhythmic and instrumental manner that originated before Musical Youth's version.

Saxsemilla also offers a lighter interpretation of Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff" and a version of the Crosby, Stills and Nash classic "Teach your Children." Both songs carry a sort of "No Problem, Mon" philosophy that resonates loudly.

Joseph Hill of Culture lends his leading vocals for some songs, such as "Wings of the Dove" and "Campyard."

**REVIEW** Kingston Sessions

**ARTIST:** Saxsemilla  
**GRADE:** B  
**FIVE WORDS:** Sax adds spice to reggae.

Together, the blending of various reggae styles, songs, instruments and lyrics forces "Kingston Sessions" to be a convincing and impressive debut for Saxsemilla.

