



## Biography/Vita **Ephraim Malachi Martin, BH{M}, D.B.A.**

Born: July 13, 1956, Soho, St. Thomas, Jamaica, W.I.  
Address: 1325 South Wabash, Chicago, ILL. 60605

[Martinsinternational1982@gmail.com](mailto:Martinsinternational1982@gmail.com)



Married: Wife, Shelvin L. M. Hall, Ret., Justice Illinois Appellate Court  
Father: One daughter, Dana Martin, Author/Publisher/Public Speaker  
A 2022, Jamaica National Badge of Honor (BH{M}) Honoree.

Dr. Ephraim Martin is a 1974-86, former international freelancer newspaper photojournalist/ columnist, for the world's oldest daily newspaper the Gleaner Publishing (established in 1834). In 1982, he founded Martin's International, whose objectives include "Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture.

## **EXPERIENCE/ACTIVITIES**

**Daily Gleaner (the oldest daily newspaper in the world), and its sister Daily Star Newspapers, Headquarters, Kingston, Jamaica**

**Photojournalist 1974 - 1981**

**Chicago Daily Defender/Gleaner & Star Newspapers Jamaica/North America**

**Photojournalist 1981 - 1986**

**Youth for The Upliftment of Reggae**

**President 1981 - 1983**

With the objectives of honoring reggae entertainers; using reggae and world music as a vehicle of expression for the voiceless peoples of the world, to End Apartheid, the Freedom of Nelson Mandela, and for freedom and democracy worldwide. These objectives continue under Martin's International events below.

**International Reggae & World Music Awards (IRAWMA)**

**Executive Producer 1982 - Present**

**Chicago Music Awards (CMA)**

**Executive Producer 1982 - Present**

**Martin's International**

**Chairman/President/CEO 1982 - Present**

**Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture**

**African/Caribbean International Festival of Life (IFOL)**

**Founder/Producer 1992 - Present**

**Special Hands of Love 1999**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend 1999, Martin organized and led a one mile special "Hand of Love" prayer rally with some 50 faith-based and other organizations with the objectives of an end to crime and for peace in the city. The one-mile prayer ceremony saw hundreds of people joining hands at noon along 55<sup>th</sup> Street, from the I-94/Dan Ryan Express to Washington Park, where Martin's annual Festival of Life was in progress, and the late Dr. Rev. Shelvin J. Hall of the Friendship Baptist Church gave the closing prayer.



**Caribbean Festival (CAF):** Founder/Executive Director 2002 - 2009  
**Chicago Music Foundation, Inc.:** Founder/Chairman 2005 - Present.  
**Jerk, Seafood & Vegan Fest (JSVFEST):** Founder/Producer 2017 - Present  
**TheReggae50:** 2017 - 2019 to celebrate and honor 50 years of reggae music.  
**Black Heroes Matter (BHM) Coalition-** Powered by Martin's Intl- 2020 - Present.  
To correct the wrongs/injustices to Black and Brown people. Amidst the coronavirus, in May 2020, following the killing of George Floyd; Ephraim Martin along with his wife, Justice Shelvin L. M. Hall, Ret, Illinois Appellate Court, started the Black Heroes Matter (BHM) Coalition under the banner of his organization, Martin's International, to correct the injustices to Chicago's Founding Father, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable who was from the Caribbean country of Haiti, with the goals of renaming Lake Shore Drive (LSD) as DuSable Drive, a major 25-foot Monument and for a city Holiday for DuSable. Further to end Systemic Racism, Police Brutality, revamping of the US-Postal Zip Code System, and more.

On June 25, 2021, he became a history-maker with his wife, and other BHM Coalition members, along with Aldermen David Moore and Sophia King, when the Chicago City Council voted 33-15 and renamed the iconic LSD as Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive. One of the biggest/most outstanding historic victories for Chicago in 191-years after the first streets were given the name of persons, and 242 years, since DuSable founded the village now call Chicago.

With a coalition of some 80 organizations and businesses, along with elected officials, media houses, and faith-based leaders, Martin led a successful July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 rally/march with speeches at DuSable Bridge, on Michigan Avenue, then marched to Grant Park, where he joined a combined rally with BLM and other organizations and gave a close out speech to some 5,000 protesters in the presence of the major media. The project will continue until all our objectives are met Mr. Martin told the crowd.

## EDUCATION

Educated at White Hall Primary, Seaforth Secondary High School in St. Thomas, Eastern College in Kingston, Jamaica, LLU, Oklahoma, USA. The areas of studies are Bookkeeping, Business Accounting and photojournalism.

- Doctor Business Administration (D.B.A.)
- Master of Science in Business Administration (MSBA) Degree
- Royal Society of Arts (RSA) - Advance Business Accounting Certificate
- Pitman Diploma - Bookkeeping & Accounting.

## ACHIEVEMENT: SCORES OF HONORS/AWARDS

**SPECIAL EVENTS WORLD RECORD:** Ephraim Martin on October 2nd, 2016, at the conclusion of his 35th International Reggae & World Music Awards and his 100th Annual Entertainment special Event, creates history and set a record as the only known person alive to have consecutively produced 100 Annual Entertainment (Awards/Festivals) Special Events. The 100th Annual Event milestone occurred over a 35 years period with four unbroken annual events.

The Chicago Music Awards (CMA), The International Festival of Life (IFOL), the Caribbean Festival (now JSVFest (Jerk, Seafood & Vegan Fest) and will combined with the 2023- IFOL), and the IRAWMA. More at [martinsinternational.com](http://martinsinternational.com)  
To-date with 120 consecutive annual Special Events to his credit, it is said no individual alive, (white or black) has produce that many uninterrupted special events in 40 years. The COVID-19 forced him to postpone 3 of his 4, 2020 Special events to 2021.

1979 - Three national Photojournalism Awards - Gold, Silver and Bronze from Jamaica Cultural Commission

1980 - Award of Appreciation - Black Media Inc- Chicago, USA.

1983 - Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to the African American Community - Triton College

1991 - Culture Care Products of Chicago Distinctive Award for the Promotion Peace, Love and Equal Rights Through Reggae- Given May 4th, Montego Bay, JA.

1993 - Change Prod. Award for Outstanding Contribution to Reggae Music

1996 - Named among Top Ten Men Who Lead in Chicago

1997 - The Chicago Park District Black History Month Award for Cultural Appreciation

1998 - Toussaint L' Overture Award for Culture

2001 - Named among top ten "People who Rock Chicago" by New City Weekly

2006 - Black Heritage Image Award for "Excellence in International Relations"

2006 - Humanitarian Award - United Church of Christ, Paul Hall Boys & Girls Club

2007 - West Indies Theatre Award for Most Outstanding Promotion of Jamaican music and culture in the United States.

2008 - NBC TV Business Expo International (BXI) Travel Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Travel

2009 - Consortium Award for Most Valuable Person in Entertainment - Chicago

2011 - The Chutney Foundation Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Chutney and Caribbean Music, Trinidad

2011 - West Indian Dance Company Lifetime Award for Untiring Promotion of Jamaica and the West Indies music, arts, and culture

2011 - The St. Maarten Government and People Lifetime Award for Extra-ordinary Contribution to Reggae, Pan, Caribbean, and World Music

2016 - The Consulate of Jamaica Chicago Outstanding Community Service Award

2016 - Six Special Awards from various countries and businesses at the end of his 35th IRAWMA Anniversary and 100th Annual Special Event.

- VP Records Award for Unusual Record Setting & History Making- 100 Annual
- Special Events
- Simba JungleDom Network Award of Distinction 35 years of Extra-Ordinary
- Accomplishment
- Award of Excellence for Setting Music Record of 100 Annual Special Events
- Awards/Festivals
- Jungle Continent of Africa Award for Record setting in World Music/Festivals

- City of Coral spring Award of Honor for Outstanding Contribution to Music

2017 - Global Impact for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity Trough Music -CST

2019 - The Exchange Honor for Unifying the Diaspora Through Arts & Culture-400 Years Remembrance

2020- Best of Jamaica in Chicago- International Festival of Life- By Jamaicas.com.

2021 - Global Lifetime Achievement Award- By Africa USA-Today Magazine

2021 - IIVIPO- South Chapter Leadership Award for Bringing Nations Together Through Music And Culture & DuSable Lake Shore Drive Victory.

2021 -HAMOC Award of Excellence - Outstanding Contributions to Humanity

2022 -THELAR Group Haitian Award for Intl Contributions to Music, Arts & Culture

**2022 - Jamaica National Badge of Honor for Meritorious Service**

Since 1976 - Present Scores of other unlisted awards were given and received by Martin



## HISTORY

### MUSIC AND APARTHEID:

In 1982, Ephraim M. Martin, founded and produced the annual Chicago Reggae Music Awards and the International Reggae Music Awards (IRMA), primarily for the promotion of Jamaican music, arts, and culture. The Awards also served as a voice of expression for the voiceless peoples of the world and forcefully pushed for an end to Apartheid and for the freedom of Nelson Mandela. The event was first sponsored by the popular Staples Singers and the Uhuru group in Chicago, Illinois.

The Chicago Reggae Music Awards, at the request of entertainers in various music genres before long evolved into the Annual Chicago Music Awards (CMA), which to this day is the official and only Awards event that honors all genres of music in Chicagoland, while keeping Jamaica, the Caribbean and the African Diaspora in the forefront and pushing for patrons to take educational visits to those destinations .

The Chicago Music Awards is held primarily in the Winter/Spring period of each year. It honors the best in Pop, Reggae, Hip Hop, Gospel, Country, R&B, Jazz, Blues, Rock, Latin, European, Asian, Opera, Classical, Spoken Word and other music genres.

Answering to the call of people from various African countries the Caribbean and other countries, the IRMA, evolved into the International Reggae and World Music Awards (IRAWMA), with Jamaica's reggae music, world beat music, arts, culture and the lifestyle of the people as its driving force. IRAWMA which started on May Day 1982 in Chicago went on the road in May 1987 and has promoted Jamaica, the Caribbean, and their lifestyle through the IRAWMA events, press conferences and other media events around the world.

Cities that have hosted IRAWMA over the last 38 years, in the United States and overseas include: Chicago, Miami, Atlanta, New Orleans, Ocho Rios, Fort Lauderdale, Montego Bay, Port of Spain, New York and Kingston.

### BRINGING NATIONS TOGETHER THROUGH MUSIC AND CULTURE:

1993: Martin established the African/Caribbean International Festival of Life (IFOL) in Chicago. The IFOL then attracted an average 50,000 patrons per year, with some 200 vendors and more than 70 performing acts on three stages. The International Festival of Life - Carnival of Nations now incorporated countries of the Caribbean, Africa, South and Central America, along with Puerto Rico and Mexico to showcase and promote their everyday life and heritage. Jamaica and its reggae music remain the driving force. Entertainers from various African, Caribbean, Hispanic/Latin American territories play a vital role in making the IFOL Carnival of Nations live up to its objectives of “Bring Nations Together Through Music and Culture”.

In 2004, Ephraim launched the Caribbean Festival (CAF) on the north/west loop side of Chicago. This festival is all about the pride and joy of Jamaica, while recognizing other Islands and Countries.

In 2017, Ephraim launched the Jerk, Seafood & Vegan Fest (JSVFest) in downtown Chicago – South Loop. The objectives include the encouragement of healthy eating and to promote Jamaican products.

### THEREGGAE50:

On the very first day of January 2018, Ephraim officially launched “TheReggae50” to celebrate 50 years of reggae music from 1968/69 to 2018. TheReggae50 celebration in which he called for the entire reggae fraternities worldwide to participate and to be observed from January 2018 through December 2019. Scores of event planners globally dedicated their events and radio shows to “TheReggae50”.

### VISITORS DISCOVERING JAMAICA, THE CARIBBEAN & AFRICA, ETC.

Since the 1982, establishment of Martin’s International and its special events and cultural branding, an estimated 500,000 travelers have visited the African Diaspora: mainly, Jamaica, Africa, and other regions. This is the direct result and effort of the Jamaican born, Ephraim, who started with the reggae phenomena when most people were unaware of the unique cultural music from Jamaica.

Martin’s International Reggae and World Music Research over the years discovered that there are approximately 2.5 billion fans of reggae and world music throughout the globe.

### TV Appearances:

Ephraim Martin has made more than 10,000 TV Appearances on network television, local, national, and internationally since 1982. Stations, such as: ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, BET, WGN, FOX TV, MTV, UPN, Entertainment Tonight, PM Magazine, JBC TV, CVM TV, SUN TV, TVJ, South Africa Public TV, CL TV, SP TV, CNC TV, C TV, and several African, Japanese and Chinese stations, among other stations worldwide have featured clips or programs that include Ephraim Martin and his work. Not to mention the social media.

For more than seven years, he was a regular guest in the month of January on the

popular ABC TV "Chicagoing" with Bill Campbell. Each year, he can always be seen on NBC 5 TV, ABC 7, CBS 2 and other stations in Chicago and other parts of the country promoting world music and culture, Jamaica and the Caribbean through his annual Chicago Music Awards and one of the biggest events in Chicago, the "African/Caribbean International Festival of Life", on July 4th weekend. Over the years he has made several appearances on the ABC TV Sunday Morning News, reporting from Washington Park, Chicago. For years, he was a weekly panelist on SP TV "Straight Talk".

### Radio Interviews local, national, and international: Since 1982:

Ephraim has done more than 12,000 radio interviews with more than 200 stations across the globe (Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, North and South America). Among the stations: B-96 FM, WBBM Talk Radio, WGCI AM/FM, V-103FM, WXRT, WVON 1690AM, WCCQ, BBC Radio-London, Capital Radio, Love FM, Lite FM, WBEZ, KISS, Power FM, Hot 97, WAVS, IRIE FM, WLIB, WBLS, RJR AM/FM, WRTN, WWRL, WPAT, WGN AM, M.O.R.E. FM, and WDCB to give a small sample of the stations.

### Print Media:

Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi and annual magazines, newspapers and publications have printed more than 8,500 articles on Ephraim and his endeavors.

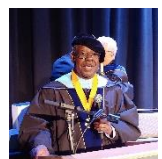
**News- Photojournalist:** 1981-86: Worked as a freelance/correspondent rotating between New York and Chicago for the Gleaner/Star Newspapers, and the same for the Chicago Daily Defender in Chicago.

**1974 to 1981,** Ephraim worked with the Daily Gleaner Newspapers (the oldest newspaper in the western hemisphere) and Daily Star Newspaper (sister afternoon paper to the Gleaner), headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica. Ephraim, then one of the youngest media workers at the time, covered and occasionally dined with heads of Government and leaders from various countries. Among them: Queen Elizabeth, President Fidel Castro, President Jimmy Carter, President Julius Nyrere, Samara Machel and Maurice Bishop, among others. In addition to covering his regular assignments: Sports, Church, Crime and Entertainment. Ephraim had five popular weekly segments/columns in the Star newspaper: (a) The Public Says (b) Sweet Sixteen (c) Golden Agers (d) Scanning the Scene, (e) Voting 18.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Friendship Baptist Church, NARAS, Black Heroes Matter, DuSable Museum of African American History, NSBA, Rainbow Push, and WDTC, among others.



Ephraim Martin, who led the Martin's International- Black Heroes Matter Coalition to the historic victory that renamed LSD as Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive, speaking at the installation of the DuSable Street signs, as Mayor Lightfoot, along with Aldermen David Moore and Sophia King, who sponsored the ordinance in the city council, and CDOT Commissioner Gia looked on. In



the other picture Dr. Martin giving the commencement address at a LLU's Graduation after receiving his Doctorate in Business Administration.