

A TRIBUTE TO VINCE CHARLES - STEEL DRUM VIRTUOSO

"A moving tribute to my husband Vince. It's the first time I have seen this video ... It made me cry. Thanks for keeping Vince in your thoughts and for keeping his 'beautiful noise' alive." – Rachel Charles (March 2014).

I was truly touched and overwhelmed to receive the above beautiful message from Rachel Charles. Vince Charles, gone too soon, forever in our hearts. – NEIL DIAMOND CENTRAL

"Vince Charles was one of the most joyful, loving guys who gave everything to his music and everything to the people that he met. I can only hope that some of him, rubbed off on us. We'd like to do this song for you in his memory." - ND (October 2001)

Born in St. Kitts and reared in the Virgin Islands, Vince Charles performed in the Caribbean Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1964-65. Then, after playing at Canada's Montreal Expo '67, he moved to Los Angeles, where he became a studio musician.

First asked to work with Diamond on 'Reggae Strut' for the 1974 album 'Serenade', Vince Charles joined Neil's band full-time in 1976. Prior to hooking up with Neil, Vince was an accomplished studio musician. He has also worked with Herb Alpert, The Beach Boys and many others during the course of his career.

Vince has put out two albums of his own music; the latest of which is entitled 'Soliloquy' and he often puts together a band in LA when he has time off from the Diamond tour. Sadly, Vince passed away on June 3, 2001.

Captain Sunshine is from Neil Diamond's 'Moods' album (1972). Neil Diamond and his band performed this version in October 20, 2001 as a tribute to Vince a treasured and much loved member of the Neil Diamond Band.

CAPTAIN SUNSHINE NEIL DIAMOND

Captain Sunshine
Make me drink wine
Make me feel fine
When I'm feelin' wrongly down

He don't take much
He don't make much
But ah, to be such a man as he
And walk so pure
Between the earth and the sea

Captain Sunshine,
He do me fine
Make the words rhyme
When he knows the tune is sad

He don't take much
Lordy, he don't make much

But ah, to be such a man as he
And walk so pure
Between the earth and the sea
(instrumental)

He don't take much
He don't make much
But ah, to be such a man as he
And walk so pure
Between the earth and the sea

Neil Diamond 1972

Album: Moods