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His brothers played with bands like Symphonettes and Crossfire and Boogsie himself learned to play the instrument when he was just four years old. In fact, his parents say that by the time he was able to crawl he would go outside and use his hand to 'pound' on the pan.

Boogsie attended the Woodbrook Presbyterian School and would 'break biche' many times so he could go play pan. He did this even though he knew that when he returned home he was sure to get a good 'licking'. Boogsie did not like school but when he attended the Progressive Educational Institute he enjoyed himself because he was a member of their football team. This little music genius also enjoyed going to the beach and listening to the songs of the Beatles.

While still in khaki short pants he began playing with Crossfire and in 1967, at the age of 14, he joined Starlift. It was at this time he was forced to make a decision that would change his life forever. He had to choose between going on tour with Starlift or staying in school and continuing his education. Boogsie told his parents: 'well, I going, you know' and his parents did not try to stop him for they believed Boogsie knew what he was doing.

In 1947 Boogsie left Starlift and with some of his fellow 'panmates' opened Phase Two. These men actually started off in the Starlift panyard. When they were finished practising with Starlift they would remain after the others had left and play their own compositions. Thus began the musical ride of his life. Boogsie, the human mystery, who could neither write nor read a line of music would go on to create magical compositions. He along with Phase Two Pan Groove would go on to mesmerise all those who listened to the heavenly melodies they created.

Lennox 'Boogsie' Sharpe

✓ BOOGSIE SHARPE grew up in a family of three boys and two girls. His mother used to do ironing for other people and his father was a male nurse at the St. Ann's Hospital.

When Boogsie was brought home, just a few hours after being born, he was greeted by the delightful sound of steel band music. This little babe had something no other child his age had — the Symphonettes steel orchestra in his yard and on those nights when he could not sleep his father would take him to see the men beating on the pan.

By Narisa Mandol ✓