

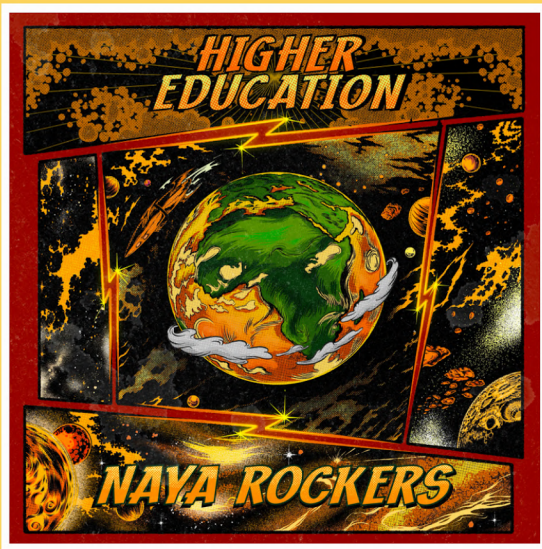


Higher Education

Lead single by Ivan Neville set for release Q1 '24
10-track LP set for release Q2 '24



Naya Records, in association with **Floki Studios**, is pleased to introduce a genuine album project connecting pioneers of Jamaican popular music with New Orleans R&B, third wave ska and next generation dub and roots artists. Recorded at Floki Studio in Iceland and backed by Naya Rockers, a 10-piece band including guitarist **Earl 'Chinna' Smith** (picked by **Rolling Stone** as one of the world's greatest guitarists of all time) members of **The Skatalites**, **John Brown's Body** and **Slightly Stoopid**, *Higher Education* was mixed at Bob Marley's legendary **Tuff Gong Studio** by Grammy-winning engineer/producer **Stephen Stewart** (Tuff Gong, Third World).



Ivan Neville Higher Education
Clinton Fearon Come With Us
Sister Nancy Teach The Youths
Mike Love Long Way Down
Angelo Moore The Brotherhood
Hector Lewis Thanks
And more...



Visit Naya Records online for audio, updates and artist information.

The first single and title track, **Ivan Neville's "Higher Education"**, establishes the record's unique Caribbean presence. Neville's uplifting, soulful sound is woven seamlessly into a Naya Rockers' roots reggae riddim, connecting Neville's northern Caribbean roots with authentic Jamaican vibes further south. From there, the album pays respect to the roots and the branches of Jamaican popular music, from ska, reggae and original dancehall to dub and even ska punk.

Producer/drummer/writer, **Nathan Sabanayagam**, and co-producer/bassist **Nate Edgar** (Nth Power, John Brown's Body), assembled a who's who of music creators, reflecting the evolution of Jamaican music across time and space. On the LP, Ivan Neville is joined by fellow vocalists **Sister Nancy**, a dancehall pioneer, new roots protagonist **Hector Lewis**, **Angelo Moore** of the iconic ska punk outfit **Fishbone** and Billboard charting **Mike Love** and veteran musicians like Chinna and **Andy Bassford** (Toots & The Maytals, Monty Alexander).

Floki Studios, an independent label set up to empower creators, is extremely pleased to support this social and cultural milestone. Floki's Music Director, **Wade Koeman**, and Sabanayagam, have set up *Higher Education* to be more than just a name. A majority of proceeds, and 100% of Floki Studios' portion, will be donated to youth music training at the **Alpha School of Music** in Kingston, Jamaica to benefit the next generation.



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A Unique Commitment To Music Education As A Tool For Civic Engagement

Floki and Naya view music as a key tool with which to strengthen communities, create economic opportunity and contribute to overall quality of life. Both see the process of creating, recording and performing music as a platform for community building across geographical borders and music genres. The Alpha School of Music, formerly Alpha Boys School, has been a leader in music education and community building for over 100 years in Jamaica. Alpha is a real-life example of what is possible when music making and performing is guided by a civic, community-minded approach.

“When Nathan approached us, the Alpha link was the real impetus,” said **Floki Studio’s Wade Koeman**. “Yes, we absolutely love this style of music. And we share the same love for presenting to the world great music with ultra high recording and mixing standards. But the benefit to Alpha and the opportunity to create a project with long term benefits - to be truly impactful - that was the biggest factor.”



Founded as an orphanage in 1880, the **Alpha School of Music** (formerly Alpha Boys School) in Kingston, Jamaica has been operated since 1890 by a Catholic order of nuns, the **Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica**. The sisters’ work in Jamaica focuses on supporting marginalized youth, access to education and skills training. Music education was introduced in 1892 and since then

the Alpha music program has helped launch the careers of key contributors to jazz (**Dizzy Reece, Joe Harriott**), pioneers of ska (**Don Drummond, Lester Sterling**) and reggae (**Johnnie Osbourne, Yellowman, Leroy Smart**).

Alpha has been called a “dream factory” (**NPR/USA**) for “legendary musicians” (**Jamaica Gleaner**) which “helped release the spirit of one of the most musical islands in the world” (**The Telegraph/UK**).

“Surprisingly, access to music education is still a challenge for young musicians in Jamaica,” notes **Naya Records** founder **Sabanayagam**. “But the Alpha School of Music offers an inclusive space where young people, regardless of economic background, have access to instruments, modern facilities, great teachers and a caring environment. They have a strong track record of providing a solid transition from school to work and the Sisters of Mercy have spent over 100 years developing this unique educational model which has had an amazing impact on the community and the world. *Higher Education* is inspired by the work done at Alpha and it’s appropriate that the school and the students benefit from it.”

For more information alphamusicja.com | alphaboysschoolradio.com