

MONTY ALEXANDER with ERNEST RANGLIN:

ROCKSTEADY. Veteran jazz pianist Monty Alexander has used several of his many albums to explore his Jamaican roots through a blend of jazz and reggae. This invigorating CD is in that tradition and co-stars another Jamaican instrumental legend, guitarist Ernest Ranglin. Here they romp through classic Jamaican material from the so-called "ska" period of the late '60s and early '70s. Songs include the Congos' "Fisherman's Row," the Heptones' "Fatty Fatty" and Desmond Dekker's "Israelites," set up to frame first-rate improvisations from the pianist and guitarist.