



## Beres Hammond, an ageless wonder

**Beres Hammond** was still in the stages of a comeback when he first met music producer **Donovan Germain** in 1990. He was 37 years old and looking to secure studio time to record songs at **Germain's Penthouse Records**, then located in Slipe Road. *"I didn't have any time available, but I told him I would give him my time if he would do a song for me in return"* **Germain** recalled. **Hammond** agreed. [Tempted to Touch](#), the first song he did for **Germain**, went to number one.

The **Germain-Hammond** combination has borne fruit for over 20 years. [Falling In Love All Over Again](#), [Respect to Your Baby](#), and [Pull Up the Vibes](#) are some of the other hits they have enjoyed. **Hammond** became dancehall's respected 'elder' during the 1990s. The genre was dominated by young acts like **Shabba Ranks**, **Mad Cobra**, **Garnet Silk**, **Wayne Wonder** and **Germain's** teenaged protégé **Buju Banton**. **Germain** says he had no issue with **Hammond's** 'seniority'. *"Beres Hammond is Beres Hammond... He gave my generation so many great songs"* he said. *"All I saw was talent, not age"*. **Hammond** reached his zenith in the mid-1990s. Two of his hit songs, the **Tappa Zukie** produced [Putting Up Resistance](#) and [Double Trouble](#), produced by **Steely & Clevie**, were anthems.

According to **Germain**, it was [Who Sey](#), the deejay version of [Falling in Love All Over Again](#), done with **Buju Banton**, that really gave **Hammond** a younger fan base. *"You had a great singer/songwriter and a hot young deejay with a different following. It was like 'how wi going merge both of them? But it worked."* **Buju Banton** was not born when **Beres Hammond** started his career in the late 1960s. He was in diapers when **Hammond** recorded soul songs like [One Step Ahead](#) and [Oh I Miss You](#) for producer **Willie Lindo**, a decade later. His career took a dip in the early 1980s but he was back on track in 1985 with **Lindo's** [What One Dance Can Do](#). **Beres Hammond** has maintained his run as one of reggae's prolific hitmakers. Last year, he made the charts with the **Germain** produced [Feel Good](#).

For his endurance, **Beres Hammond** will be awarded the Order of Jamaica tomorrow, during the National Honours and Awards ceremony at King's House.