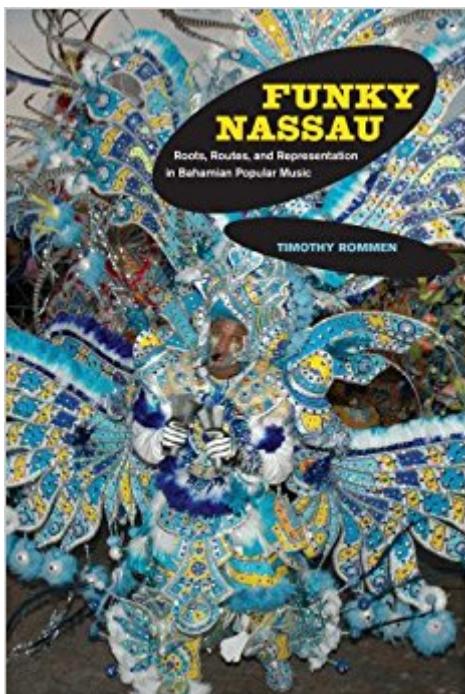


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Funky Nassau: Roots, Routes, And Representation In Bahamian Popular Music (Music Of The African Diaspora)



Synopsis

This book examines the role music has played in the formation of the political and national identity of the Bahamas. Timothy Rommen analyzes Bahamian musical life as it has been influenced and shaped by the islands' location between the United States and the rest of the Caribbean; tourism; and Bahamian colonial and postcolonial history. Focusing on popular music in the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, in particular *rake-n-scrape* and *Junkanoo*, Rommen finds a Bahamian music that has remained culturally rooted in the local even as it has undergone major transformations. Highlighting the ways entertainers have represented themselves to Bahamians and to tourists, *Funky Nassau* illustrates the shifting terrain that musicians navigated during the rapid growth of tourism and in the aftermath of independence.

Book Information

Series: Music of the African Diaspora (Book 15)

Paperback: 332 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (May 19, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520265696

ISBN-13: 978-0520265691

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

"[A] highly insightful book. . . . Rommen here offers the most extensive publication to date on Bahamian music. . . . [An] excellent study. (Stephen Stuempfle *Journal Of Anthropological Research* 2012-04-04)" Funky Nassau gives an insider perspective on the complex routes and representations in Bahamian music before and after independence. Through many quotations from interviews and other sources the voice of Bahamian musicians and cultural activists is present . . . Rommen reveals Bahamian roots in local popular music that cannot be discovered by an outsider." (Krister Malm *Popular Music* 2015-01-01) "Rommen . . . offers the most extensive publication

to date on Bahamian music. It is a major contribution to Caribbean music scholarship. (Stephen Stuempfle Journal Of Anthropological Research 2012-03-01)

Timothy Rommen has done it again. After the success of his earlier award-winning study of gospel music in Trinidad and the ethics of style, Rommen turns his attention to the complex and conflicted history of music in the Bahamas. Drawing upon extensive ethnographic and historical research, Rommen explores the interrelationships between rake-n-scrape, goombay, and Junkanoo performance, and shows how such local musics are implicated in Bahamian understandings of national identity. In *Funky Nassau*, Timothy Rommen confirms his status as one of the best scholars of Caribbean music today. Michael Largey, author of *Vodou Nation: Haitian Art Music and Cultural Nationalism* "This sensitive, bittersweet account of music-making in the Bahamas shows how a small, fragmented country that has been buffeted by powerful currents emanating from both the United States and the Caribbean has managed to produce a vibrant popular music of its own. Rommen carefully maps the political and cultural economies that are integral to this story, but he keeps the musicians themselves, their aesthetics and strategies, at the center where they belong. The result is a vivid and finely nuanced portrait of a unique musical culture that deserves to be better known." Kenneth Bilby, Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago

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