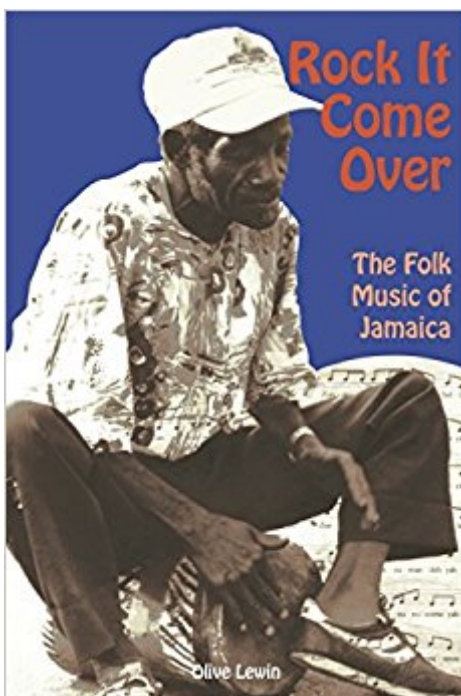


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Rock It Come Over: The Folk Music Of Jamaica



Synopsis

This volume describes the music and lore of Jamaica from the early 16th century through emancipation in 1838 to the mid-20th century. Olive Lewin explores the role of music in the lives of slaves and explores the life and beliefs of the Kumina cult queen, Imogene Queenie Kennedy.

Book Information

Paperback: 351 pages

Publisher: University of the West Indies Press (2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9766400288

ISBN-13: 978-9766400286

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,078,128 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in [Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Jamaica](#) #148 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Salsa](#) #438 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnic](#)

Customer Reviews

"Rock It Come Over" describes the music and lore of slavery from the early sixteenth century through emancipation in 1838 to the mid twentieth century. Lewin explores the role of music in the lives of the slaves as a method of communication, as a form of resistance and subversion, as a repository of oral history and beliefs, and, ultimately, as a means of survival. The work is based on decades of research into the music sung and played by the working people of Jamaica. Lewin relates the music to traditions that preserve the African way of life, such as Revivalism and its strong heritage of faith and worship. She has a special interest in the Kumina cult and describes in detail the life and beliefs of Kumina queen, Imogene "Queenie" Kennedy. "Rock It Come Over" is the most extensive study of Jamaican folk music yet published. It is also an examination of the roots of that music and a record of the folk heritage that is, in spite of many efforts, rapidly retreating before the pressures of life today.

Olive Lewin is director of the Jamaica Folk Singers and cultural director of Grace, Kennedy Ltd.

If you are an ethnomusicologist, or even remotely curious how and why Jamaican music is so influential in the Caribbean and abroad, then this book is definitely what you want in your hands. The author, Olive Lewin, is in a good position to know a thing or two about how music evolved in Jamaica. She traces many origins to the runaway slave communities that once dotted the island, and how cult and non-cult music survived. There is also an interesting chapter devoted to Kumina. Wonderfully illustrated, there are musical scores and examples, as well as an extensive bibliography to point a prospective scholar and student to a myriad of research topics. I cannot praise this book enough!

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