

Reggae Routes: The Story of Jamaican Music

By Kevin O'Brien Chang, Wayne Chen

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Jamaican music can be roughly divided into four eras, each with a distinctive beat - ska, rocksteady, reggae and dancehall. Ska dates from about 1960 to mid-1966, rocksteady from 1966 to 1968, while from 1969 to 1983 reggae was the popular beat. The reggae era had two phases, 'early reggae' up to 1974 and 'roots reggae' up to 1983. Since 1983 dancehall has been the prevalent sound. The authors describe each stage in the development of the music, identifying the most popular songs and artists, highlighting the significant social, political and economic issues as they affected the musical scene. While they write from a Jamaican perspective, the intended audience is 'any person, local or foreign, interested in an intelligent discussion of reggae music and Jamaica.'.

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"Insightful...Enthralls from start to finish...Accurate." -- *Jamaica Sunday Observer*, Jan 11, 1998

"It is alive...the reader experiences the history in-depth. -- *Jamaica Sunday Gleaner*, Feb 22, 1998

From the Publisher
Reggae's pulsating rhythms and appeals for social justice have galvanized music audiences all over the world

From the Author
This book is above all a labour of love. We 'born and grow' with reggae and the men and women who sang and played and produced it have given us countless moments of joy. In a way this is our small token of thanks for the real happiness they brought into our lives.

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