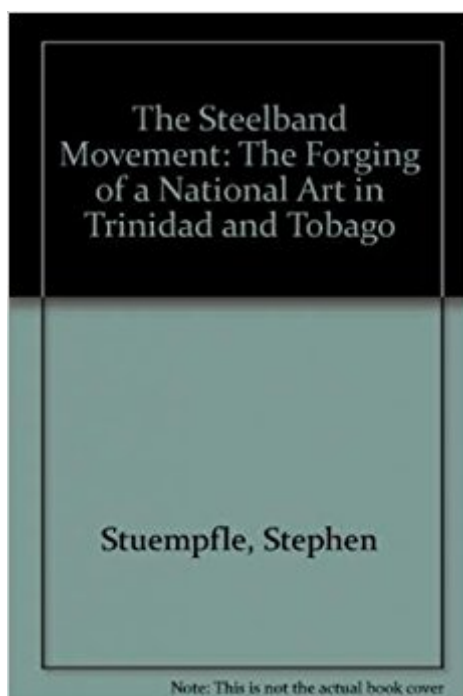


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The Steelband Movement: The Forging Of A National Art In Trinidad And Tobago



Synopsis

The Steelband Movement examines the dramatic transformation of pan from a Carnival street music into a national art and symbol in Trinidad and Tobago. By focusing on pan as a cultural process, Stephen Stuempfle demonstrates how the struggles and achievements of the steelband movement parallel the problems and successes of building a nation. Stuempfle explores the history of the steelband from its emergence around 1940 as an assemblage of diverse metal containers to today's immense orchestra of high-precision instruments with bell-like tones. Drawing on interviews with different generations of pan musicians (including the earliest), a wide array of archival material, and field observations, the author traces the growth of the movement in the context of the grass-roots uprisings of the 1930s and 1940s, the American presence in Trinidad in World War II, the nationalist movement of the postwar period, the aftermath of independence from Britain in 1962, the Black Power protests and the oil boom of the 1970s, and the recession of recent years. The Steelband Movement suggests that the history of pan has involved a series of negotiations between different ethnic groups, socioeconomic classes, and social organizations, all of which have attempted to define and use the music according to their own values and interests. This drama provides a window into the ways in which Trinidadians have constructed various visions of a national identity.

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Stuempfle is Chief Curator for the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I about mid way into this book, and it is very resourceful. I encourage all to read it. Apart from giving me an in-depth look at the Evolution of the Steelband, the author also illustrates how the steelband movement affected the socio- economic, political and religious aspects of life in Trinidad & Tobago pre as well as post Independence. Names which I heard about growing up are brought to life on the pages. While I heard about Attorney Lenox Pierre and his involvement, I was not aware of the huge part Albert Gomes played in assisting the steelband movement in getting respectability and recognition of the musical art form. There is a lot of information, be warned.

I bought used and it took a while to ship, but it was a good price and a nice hardcover copy (looks like it came from a library), so overall I'm happy with it. I'm using it as a textbook for a college class.

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