

# Cultural Change in Socialist Cuba: Music of the African Diaspora



Cuba is a country with a rich and diverse culture, which has been shaped by its history of Spanish colonialism, African slavery, and American influence. This is particularly evident in the country's music, which reflects the diverse cultural influences that have come to shape Cuba's unique identity.

One of the most important influences on Cuban music has been the African diaspora. The arrival of African slaves in Cuba in the 16th century brought with it a wealth of musical traditions, which were blended with Spanish and European musical forms to create a unique Cuban sound.



## Music and Revolution: Cultural Change in Socialist Cuba (Music of the African Diaspora Book 9)

by Marcia Naomi Berger

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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The music of the African diaspora has had a profound impact on Cuban culture. It is found in all genres of Cuban music, from traditional son and rumba to modern salsa and timba. It has also influenced the development of Cuban dance, religion, and art.

The arrival of socialism in Cuba in 1959 had a significant impact on the music of the African diaspora. The new government promoted cultural expression and encouraged the development of new musical forms. This led to the emergence of new genres of Cuban music, such as nueva trova and filin, which blended traditional Afro-Cuban rhythms with modern songwriting techniques.

However, the socialist government also imposed some restrictions on the music of the African diaspora. For example, the government banned the performance of certain types of Afro-Cuban music, such as santeria and palo monte, which were seen as being associated with superstition and paganism.

Despite these restrictions, the music of the African diaspora has continued to play an important role in Cuban culture. It is a vibrant and dynamic tradition that continues to evolve and adapt to the changing times.

### **The Role of the African Diaspora in Cuban Music**



The African diaspora has played a vital role in the development of Cuban music. The arrival of African slaves in Cuba brought with it a wealth of musical traditions, which were blended with Spanish and European musical forms to create a unique Cuban sound.

The African influence is particularly evident in the rhythms of Cuban music. The use of complex polyrhythms, syncopation, and improvisation is a hallmark of Afro-Cuban music. This rhythmic complexity is often combined

with a strong emphasis on percussion, which provides the foundation for the music.

Another important element of Afro-Cuban music is the use of call-and-response vocals. This technique involves a soloist singing a line or phrase, which is then repeated by a chorus of singers or musicians. Call-and-response vocals are often used in songs that have a religious or ceremonial purpose.

The African diaspora has also had a significant impact on the instrumentation of Cuban music. The use of drums, claves, and maracas is a common feature of Afro-Cuban music. These instruments are often used to create a rhythmic foundation for the music, and they can also be used to create melodies and harmonies.

## **The Impact of Socialism on the Music of the African Diaspora**



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Despite these restrictions, the music of the African diaspora has continued to play an important role in Cuban culture. It is a vibrant and dynamic tradition that continues to evolve and adapt to the changing times.

The music of the African diaspora is an essential part of Cuban culture. It is a vibrant and dynamic tradition that has been shaped by the diverse cultural influences that have come to shape Cuba's unique identity. The arrival of socialism in Cuba in 1959 had a significant impact on the music of the African diaspora, but it has continued to play an important role in Cuban culture.



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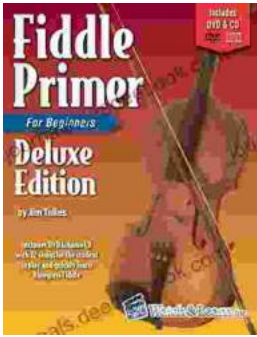
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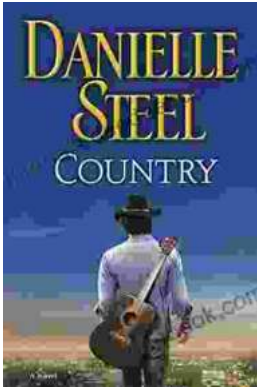
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