



Bachata A Social History of a Dominican Popular Music

By Deborah Pacini Hernandez



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Like rap in the United States, bachata began as a music of the poor and dispossessed. Originating in the shantytowns of the Dominican Republic, it reflects the social and economic dislocation of the poorest Dominicans.



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Review

"[A]n important work on many levels. [Hernandez'] writings trace the impact of political upheaval and rural migration on the development of bachata and Dominican music in general [and analyze] issues of sex and gender as expressed by bachata's mostly male interpreters." --New York Latino "Deep in the shadow of the glamorous merengue, the Dominican Republic has nurtured a music called bachata whose history parallels the blues'. With consummate skill, Deborah Pacini Hernandez sorts out the many forces that have shaped this style from the bottom up. This book is an explanatory wonder that integrates music, politics, geography, history, media, global and local culture." --Charles Keil, State University of New York at Buffalo, author of Urban Blues and Polka Happiness "This is a profound contribution to the understanding of contemporary Latin American and Caribbean culture. Pacini uses her study of a dynamic and increasingly popular form of Dominican music to draw a remarkable portrait of a society in transition. Combining the best in modern cultural theory with an intimate familiarity with grassroots culture, Pacini's book provides unique and richly nuanced perspectives on the vicissitudes of modernization and urbanization." --Peter Manuel, City University of New York, author of Caribbean Currents: Caribbean Music from Rumba to Reggae

From the Publisher

Tracing bachata's rise to popularity and the implications of its development

About the Author

Deborah Pacini Hernandez is Assistant Professor and Associate Director at the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida.

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