



Global Beat Fusion: The History of the Future of Music

Derek Beres

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Since publication in June 2005, Global Beat Fusion: The History of the Future of Music has helped to define the emerging global culture being created by international music and the musicians that search past their own nations to create and collaborate. This newly updated and revised Kindle edition featuring candid interviews with Karsh Kale, Krishna Das, Cheb i Sabbah, Bill Laswell, Ojos de Brujo, Zakir Hussain, Mercan Dede, Nickodemus, Boban Markovic, Niyaz and many more, as well as an entirely new last chapter and preface. This important work is the definitive source for the most progressive musical movement of the 21st century. As NPR stated, “Global Beat Fusion: The History of the Future of Music is not a book about music alone. It’s about a growing worldwide community that’s searching for shared experience without politics or corporate involvement. And it could fill many different slots on the bookshelf.” Newsday noted that “Beres takes a Joseph Campbell-like comparative look at various cultures, then discusses the semi-underground patchwork of musicians who are using this often-sacred music for dancefloor kinetics. He then explains why that combination is not as incongruous as it might seem at first glance.” Derek’s riveting and insightful lectures (which he’s presented at Harvard, NYU, the University of Alabama and both editions of the Mythic Journeys Conference in Atlanta) uncover a groundbreaking historical connection: the Indian roots of hip-hop. He is currently working on a documentary of the same name for this book. Tracing the migration of indentured servants from India to Jamaica to work on sugar and banana plantations in the 1840’s, Beres discusses the profound influence they had on the formerly enslaved African population, which led to the creation of Nyabinghi communities—the cultural and sonic origins of the Rastafari and reggae music. From there he dives into the little discussed Jamaican and West Indian influence on rap culture in the Bronx in the early to mid 1970’s. By looking at the imprints each culture left behind, Beres uses this tale to weave together nations socially, culturally, musically and spiritually. The result is a penetrating look into how ideas are formed, as well as how the writing of history is left to those with the loudest voice, often at the expense of others. He also shows how the music that defines nations always emerges from oppressed and low income communities until it garners mainstream appeal, as has been the case with hip-hop, Indian folk music, reggae, Balkan brass, bhangra, flamenco and others. Produced by Austin-based Mythaphi—the team behind the breakthrough documentary, DMT: The Spirit Molecule, for which Derek served as music supervisor—Global Beat Fusion follows the author to India, Jamaica, West Africa and New York City alongside David ‘Duke Mushroom’ Schommer, his musical partner in EarthRise SoundSystem. In each country they record artists in their respective homelands to create a soundtrack that follows the storyline. The music will then be given to a number of top producers for a complementary soundtrack; all parts will also be released publicly for anyone to use to create a ‘living album’ of incredible music from around the planet.



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