

Art Music by Caribbean Composers: Introduction to Volume 2

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Musical genres associated with the Caribbean region typically include popular and traditional styles such as reggae, calypso, soca, merengue, and zouk. These musical styles are, in general, well documented both in the scholarly and popular realm; writings on and recordings of these styles are easy to locate. Art music from the Caribbean region is much less examined and, indeed, less well known. Many composers of art music have emerged from Caribbean nations, often to little notice. Research and documentation of this tradition exists but is scattered, easily overlooked and, in general, difficult to locate.

The goal of this project, now in its second volume, is to identify and list all available information on the art-music tradition of the Caribbean region. It will, ultimately, form a comprehensive document of value to musicians, ethnomusicologists, historians, researchers, educators and students.

While preparing Volume 2, we recognized a need to broaden somewhat the original scope

of the project. Initially, only composers born in and native to the Caribbean were to be considered for inclusion. However, it became clear that some important composers, not born in the Caribbean but long resident there, have been influential in the art musical tradition of certain islands. As excluding those influential composers from this project would render inaccurate its depiction of art-musical life, the authors decided to change the original restrictions. Therefore, non-native-born composers of particular importance to an island are included as is a notation of the composer's place of origin.

This second volume of the project provides a listing of scores and sheet music; recordings (sound files, CD's, etc.); websites; a bibliography of books and articles; and a listing of research institutions and libraries regarding composers of Caribbean art music. Whenever possible, we included information on the potential sources of these materials (directions to where they can be acquired,

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either by purchase, by download, or by borrowing).

We have intentionally excluded materials existing exclusively in outdated formats (such as 78 LPs, audiocassettes, and microform). We also have excluded those works for which a record exists but no copies can be located. (If an item cannot at least be borrowed from a library or purchased from a vendor, it is not included here).

DEFINING ART MUSIC

Art music is a difficult concept to define. The distinction between art music and folk music is indeed blurred and, as a result, is difficult to articulate.

For this project, we used the following criteria to distinguish art music from popular, traditional and folk music (styles which, again, are not covered here, being already well-represented elsewhere). These criteria do not arise from elitist intentions and are outlined in order to demonstrate clearly which works are included in the scope of this project:

- Art music descends from the western classical tradition.
- Art music may draw inspiration from or make use of melodies from folk music or dance tunes, as composers have done throughout history. But, while the subject matter may be borrowed from the folk or popular traditions, the style remains formal, often with advanced musical structure.
- Art music is fully composed. Parts are arranged and written in western staff notation. Music preserved only by oral tradition and not fixed in a written medium does not qualify. (This criterion serves to distinguish classical music of non-western traditions.)
- All parts are played as written. Interpretation, as opposed to

improvisation, is the dominant focus of the performer. (Accordingly, music played from a lead sheet or a jazz chart is excluded under this definition).

- The composition and performance or interpretation of art music requires specialized skill and knowledge, unique to the classical style.
- The experiential focus of art music is on listening to the performance as opposed to physical engagement such as dancing.

VOLUME TWO

The first volume included composers born in The Bahamas, Guadeloupe, Haïti, Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This second volume includes most of the remaining Caribbean nations, with the exception of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, which will be covered in Volume 3.

Islands covered in Volume 2 are Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

As we were unable to find information on art musical traditions in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St. Barthélemy, Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, those islands are omitted from this volume. We would welcome information related to these islands in future updates, should such details be brought to our attention.

This bibliography is separated by country. Within each country, it is divided into the following sections:

Composers: Composer information includes names, dates, and country of origin. Arranged alphabetically by last name of composer

Compositions: Arranged first by composer (alphabetically by last name) and, within each

composer, alphabetically by title of work. Whenever possible, titles of works are given in their original language: English, Dutch, French or Haïtian Creole. The date of publication and instrumentation of each work, when available, are also included.

Recordings: Arranged by composer, the format of the recording (whether CD or online soundfile) is indicated.

Scores and sheet music: Arranged first by composer (alphabetically by last name) and, within each composer, alphabetically by performer or by title of work.

Books, articles, theses and dissertations, and films: Arranged alphabetically by the last name of the author of the work.

Relevant websites: Arranged alphabetically by title of website.

Libraries and research institutes: Arranged alphabetically by name of institution.

A YouTube channel, *CariClassical*, accompanies both volumes of this bibliography. This channel features examples of works of art music highlighted in the bibliography as well as examples of folk musical styles that have influenced art-music composers of the Caribbean region. Hyperlinks to the videos included on *CariClassical* may be found throughout the introductions to many of the chapters of this bibliography.