

Although the legend and lore of musical icons Bob Marley and the Wailers are universally known, the island of Jamaica is seldom recognized for its influences on popular music on a worldwide scale. A subculture of reggae music lies in the genre called dub. This text provides a historical and analytical overview of this pioneering musical sound.

Dub was invented in the recording studios by sound engineers in Jamaica during the early 1970s. It entails the mixing and re-mixing of reggae music soundtracks through the altering of song fragments. Dub stands as the precursor to the contemporary sound mixing that is prevalent in numerous forms of present-day electronic music. Dance, hip-hop, disco, and house music can all be traced to dub, according to the author, a noted ethnomusicologist.

Scholars of music, anthropology, sociology, and history will appreciate the detail of this book. It includes interviews with many of dub's innovative musicians and engineers. A review of the seminal recordings and landmark moments in the production and development of dub are also listed. Appendices include discographies by a variety of engineers, notes, bibliographies, and a song index.

Recommended for avid listeners of reggae music, as well as scholars of world music and Caribbean culture.

Anthony Todman  
St. John's Univ. (N.Y.) Library

#### 16-4-0392

Wardlaw, Alvia J. *Charles Alston: The David C. Driskell Series of American Art, Volume VI*. Petaluma, Calif.: Pomegranate, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. ISBN-13 978-0-7649-3766-8, \$35.00.

Scholar Wardlaw brings together the life and art of the great American artist in this sixth volume in the David C. Driskell Series of African American Art. *Charles Alston* does a wonderful job of discussing the Harlem Renaissance artist who played a significant role in the Modern American art scene in the early part of the twentieth century. A truly gifted artist, Alston could do it all, working in a variety of artistic mediums that included portraits, abstract and figurative paintings, murals, sculpture (his bronze bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the first image of an African American displayed at the White House), commercial art, and even a few editorial cartoons. Alston was also a devoted teacher (Robert Blackburn and Jacob Lawrence were students); he worked and supervised projects for the WPA Federal Arts Project; and he was a lifelong activist.

From this beautiful book filled with numerous color and black-and-white images of his work and photographs of Alston and his life, the reader will come away with a great appreciation for a fascinating man and the art he created. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Melissa Aho  
Univ. of Minnesota

#### 16-4-0393

Yoshihara, Mari. *Musicians from a Different Shore: Asians and Asian Americans in Classical Music*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ.

Press, 2007. 288 pp. ISBN-13 978-1-59213-332-1, \$29.50.

Yoshihara is an American studies professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She studied the piano from an early age, concentrating on classical music, and spent a year in New York City preparing to write this book. The volume includes several interviews with New York-based musicians of Asian ancestry, including marimba player Makoto Nakura.

Much of the text is written in the first person, and the author is very adept at incorporating scholarship into its manuscript. The book is basically a cultural study involving classical musicians of Asian ancestry who have migrated to the United States or, in the case of Shinichi Suzuki, have had great influence in this country.

A considerable amount of biography is incorporated, including that of the author, and many questions are considered—for example, why middle-class Asians and Asian Americans are attracted to and talented in classical music. The answer embraces a strong work ethic as well as sensitivity.

In summary, this enlightening and informative book studies music in a social and subjective context. The art of music is here regarded as expression and communication. This multicultural study is highly recommended for students and general readers.

Geary H. Larrick  
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## Biography/ Autobiography

#### 16-4-0394

Abella, Kay. *Fighting Castro: A Love Story*. Livermore, Calif.: WingSpan Press, 2007. 330 pp. ISBN-13 978-1-59594-146-6, \$18.00 (pb).

In 1958 Dr. Lino Fernandez and his wife Emy were young, highly educated, in love, and enjoying the privileges that Cuba afforded people who, like them, were upper middle class and White. Their world changed significantly in January 1959, when Fidel Castro and his troops of *barbudos* reached Havana after defeating the dictatorship of General Fulgencio Batista. Dr. Fernandez soon became part of the anti-Castro movement. He paid dearly for his actions and ideals. He was imprisoned in 1961, tortured, and unable to see his family for most of the 17 years during which he was incarcerated.

Abella has written a biography in which the courage of the Fernandez family, their intense love for each other, and their sacrifices are interwoven with the stories of other families whose relatives were imprisoned for opposing the regime. Abella introduces us to the wives of political prisoners who, in spite of extreme hardships they faced daily, never gave up and learned to depend on and support each other in order to survive.

In many ways this is not just the story of one country, but also a reminder of other prisoners now languishing in jails in countries