



Bachata and Dominican Identity / La bachata y la identidad dominicana

Julie A. Sellers

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Bachata--a guitar-based romantic music that debuted in Santo Domingo's urban shantytowns in the 1960s--is today one of the hottest Latin genres. Dominicans at home and abroad have embraced bachata as synonymous with national identity. Still, fans and musicians have not forgotten the social stigma the genre carried for decades. This book interweaves bachata's history and development with the socio-political context of Dominican identity in both the national and international community, often told in the voices of musicians and producers. The author argues that bachata's early disfavor was a result of the political climate of its origins and deeply rooted ties between class and race, and proposes that the genre's growing popularity and ultimate acceptance as a symbol of Dominican identity arise from its instrumental and lyrical innovations, the growth of the lower class, and a devoted following among the migrants of the Dominican diaspora. La bachata es una musica de guitarra que se estreno en los barrios populares de Santo Domingo en los anos 60 y hoy, es uno de los generos latinos mas populares. Tanto los dominicanos en la isla como los que se encuentran en el exterior han aceptado la bachata como simbolo de la identidad nacional. No obstante, sus aficionados y sus exponentes no han olvidado el estigma social asociado que conlleva por decadas. Este libro entretiene la historia y el desarrollo de la bachata con el contexto socio-politico de la identidad dominicana tanto en la comunidad nacional como en la internacional, relatados con frecuencia en las voces de sus exponentes y productores. La autora plantea que la desaprobacion temprana de la bachata resulto del clima politico en que nacio y los vinculos arraigados entre raza y clase social en el pais. Propone que su creciente popularidad y su aceptacion final como simbolo de identidad dominicana surgen de sus innovaciones instrumentales y liricas, el crecimiento de la clase baja y sus seguidores leales entre los migrantes de la diaspora dominicana.

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