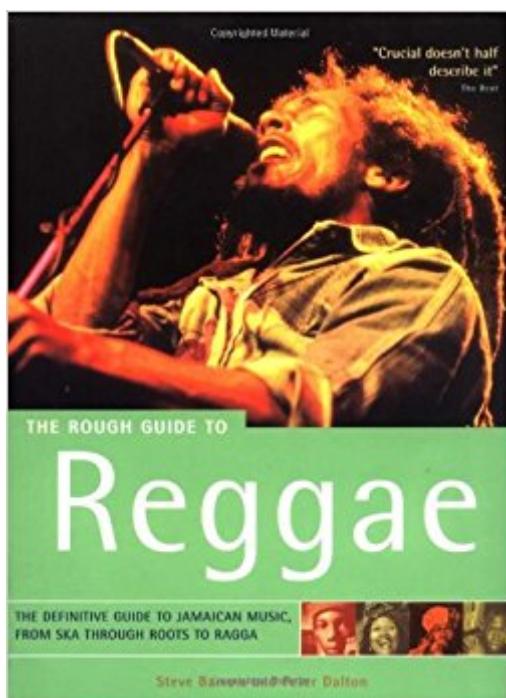


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# The Rough Guide To Reggae 2 (Rough Guide Music Guides)



## Synopsis

This expanded and updated new edition of "The Rough Guide to Reggae" covers the entire span of recorded music in Jamaica, from 1950s mento and R&B through to dancehall and ragga, giving you the full story of ska, rock-steady, roots, dub, toasting and lovers' rock, as well as reggae's offshoots in Britain, the US and Africa. The book takes its focus from the singers and DJs, the equally important producers and session musicians, and the sound systems. Throughout, there are interviews and features on the major artists, and reviews of hundreds of discs - both on CD and vinyl. The authors, Steve Barrow and Peter Dalton, have been involved in the music for over 20 years. Steve runs the highly acclaimed Blood and Fire reissue label; Peter Dalton is an avid collector and works as a columnist for the New York magazine, "Dub Catcher". Extensive illustrations include images by top reggae photographers Adrian Boot and David Corio, plus classic record covers and reggae ephemera.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jamaican music incorporates an evolving, ever-changing series of musical styles, and this book the revised second edition of a well-received 1997 reference work keeps pace by including all major new artists of the past four years and all important reissues. Much of the original book has not changed. Additions include a chapter on Jamaican jazz that documents this largely overlooked group of recordings. The ragga section covers such new hip hop-influenced dancehall crews as Red

Rat and Mr. Vegas, while a new chapter, "Rasta Renaissance," devotes much attention to the Bobo Ashanti branch of the Rastafarian movement. The first edition of this book was praised by many as the best, most comprehensive reference guide to reggae and Jamaican music. The best just got better. One snafu: the artists' names, set in white against pale orange, are difficult to read, a design problem that will be a nuisance to most readers. Nevertheless, any library that bought the first book should purchase this one, and those that did not but collect heavily in popular culture should strongly consider. This work offers novices a wide variety of recommended albums to search for and is one of those rare reference books that longtime fans will want to read from cover to cover. Bill Walker, Stockton-San Joaquin Cty. P.L., CA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Though the first edition of "the definitive guide to Jamaican music, from ska through roots to raga" is only a few years old (it was published in 1997), the "huge number of recordings" that have since become available made this update necessary. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT REGGAE ARTISTS AND STYLES OF REGGAE.THE HISTORY OF REGGAE MUSIC AND ARTISTS.IMPORTANT INFORMATION OF REGGAE MUSIC.WORTH THE BUY TO GUILD YOU WITH DIFFERENT STYLES OF REGGAE MUSIC.**

Jamaica's incredibly prolific musical output (more than one hundred thousand different records over the last fifty years) is a phenomenon totally out of proportion to the island's small size, its 2 million strong population and modest wealth. Equally significant is the huge influence of reggae music on everything from punk to hip hop to today's rave and dj culture. So if you're looking for a reggae primer that really explains what it's all about, this is the book to get. Authors Steve Barrow and Peter Dalton possess an unrivalled knowledge of Jamaica's rich musical heritage and if you've ever bought any of the superbly remastered and repackaged reissue cds from Barrow's Blood & Fire label, you'll find the same care, attention to detail and love of the music in the pages of the Rough Guide. The book chronicles the entire history of Jamaican music chapter by chapter, from the earliest beginnings to the sounds being made today; explaining when, how and why each new style developed, who made it happen and the background of continuing social change in Jamaica itself, which has always played a part in shaping the music. There are also excellent accounts of the evolution of reggae in the UK, the USA and Africa. In each chapter the main text is supplemented by profiles of the major singers, groups, djs, musicians, producers, engineers, studios and promoters

who came to the fore in that particular era, which often include interviews with the artists themselves. The accompanying discographies are well researched and can reliably be used to add to your record collection. There are over a thousand featured albums in the book, each of which is concisely reviewed, and although there's no rating system as such, the most important releases are highlighted as being essential for a particular artist or style. Such ratings are inevitably subjective, but if you follow these recommendations you won't go far wrong. The Rough Guide is also well illustrated throughout with photographs and album artwork, and overall it's as comprehensive and accurate as it can be while remaining reasonably concise. I don't generally spend much time wading through books about music because theory (ie reading about it) is invariably much less enjoyable and informative than practice (ie listening to it), but I've found this one to be consistently useful. If you have a few more dollars to spare I'd recommend that you also buy the wonderful 4 CD set "TOUGHER THAN TOUGH: THE STORY OF JAMAICAN MUSIC", so you can read and listen in parallel; and if you'd like to dig deeper into the subject try the excellent "BASS CULTURE: WHEN REGGAE WAS KING" by Lloyd Bradley. But the Rough Guide should definitely be your first book about reggae music and will probably be the only one you'll ever need. *Tougher Than Tough: The Story Of Jamaican Music* *Bass Culture: When Reggae Was King*

I can't imagine that I'd actually ever sit down to read this book, from beginning to end, I mean, now that would be boring, like watching grass grow, or reading a math text book from beginning to end. However, that being said, I don't think that this book was meant to be read in that way. It is a buyer's guide, and strictly as a buyer's guide, it is very good. Like another reviewer here, this book has cost me some serious dough indirectly, searching for, finding and purchasing some of the classics in this book has ran me over 2 thousand dollars. I lie the format where they give a brief accounting of the type of music for the chapter, then break it down by the artists and their best albums. It even has a dub section which is very extensive, and the best of its kind about this oft-forgotten type of music. It brought back memories, of my father playing tunes by Fred Locks, Tappa Zukie, Augustus Pablo, Yabby You and the Congos when I was younger, (I'm only 21) and I was able to purchase a lot of those albums for my own collection. And my father owns the book, he's 47 years old, owns approximately 60% of the material in the book, and he's been listening to the music for approximately 47 years, and he loves it. In my opinion, if you just approach this one as what it is, a buyer's guide, then it'll work for you. I also like the way it handles Bob Marley and the Wailers, it gives a very in depth summary, but it doesn't over-do it, as many books on reggae does. And it also goes in depth on Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer as well. It covers very in depthly the current era of

reggae as well, with the dancehall, and conscious vibes well touched upon. Overall, I say if you are a collector of reggae music, especially a newer collector, then this book will work for you, it does all of the research for you, gives you 100% of the labels, so you can go directly to the source, and get the material you want. Very very good!

When one realizes the amount of reggae music one can find today, it can be a bit overwhelming and intimidating to understand let alone comprehend in selecting a good purchase. Prior to purchasing "The Rough Guide to Reggae" I did not know or understand the difference between Rockstady, Reggae, Roots music and how they differed from each other. The purchasing of this book was one of the best Reggae purchases I've ever made. Barrow and Dalton give you a chronological order to the music's beginning and its gradual development up to the present. Novices and experts alike cannot afford to be without this invaluable Reggae guide and indispensable reference book. It's money well spent and you will not be disappointed.

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