

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Terminology: Singers and composers can rightfully be regarded as musicians. However, in this book, I reserve the term “musician” exclusively for instrumentalists and bandleaders to mark the distinct work they perform.

Throughout the book, I refer exclusively to the English-speaking Caribbean. My reference to “the Caribbean” or “the islands” should thus be read with this meaning in mind.

Registers of Speaking: I have changed some instances of Trinidadian English in places where they might be confusing. Otherwise, direct quotations are transcribed as spoken.

Visual Signs: In this dialogic experiment, parentheses and brackets are useful to highlight who provides additional information. Parentheses are used when the author in question provides additional information on what he or she is saying. By contrast, brackets indicate that I am adding explanations or additional information to what another speaker is saying.

Currencies: Speaking about his tours in different parts of the world, Roy Cape refers at times to Trinidadian dollars, at other times to U.S. dollars, and at still other times to Canadian dollars. Whenever possible, the sum of money referred to in the text is translated into U.S. dollars. At other times, to avoid interrupting a dialogue, I leave the reference to foreign currencies as mentioned by the speaker. The reader should note the following conversions: 1 U.S. dollar is worth usually from 6 to 6.4 Trinidadian dollars; 1 Canadian dollar usually equals around 6 Trinidadian dollars.