

note on music references

Many Trinidadian singers use stage names rather than their given names. This is a long-standing tradition within calypso. The given name is not a secret, but the moniker is usually a means of amplifying the persona of the performer. I have adopted a practice of referring to singers by their stage names when I discuss them. The appendix lists the given names for the performers to whom I refer by stage names. In addition, the discography includes both the stage name and the given name of the performer.

Throughout this book I cite many songs. When I quote from songs, I have chosen to provide citations for the specific recordings I used. I also include a discography of all the recordings to which I refer, with one exception: Duke's "Get on Radical." To my knowledge, a nonpirated version of this recording has not been released on any compact disc. As a consequence, when I cite lyrics from this song, I refer to a book of lyrics (L. Williams 1991), not to a recording.

In almost every case, my first hearing of the music was either in the context of a performance, on the radio, or on a pirated cassette tape. In most cases, the versions I heard are the same as those on the commercially available recordings I cite. In a few cases, however, such as Scrunter's soca parangs, the versions with which I am most familiar appeared only on vinyl, and the versions released on subsequent compact discs are not the same as the vinyl versions. In this case, I have cited the compact discs that contain the versions closest to the original vinyl.

Also, there are a variety of spellings for Sonny Mann's song "Loota La": Lootay La, Lotay La, Lota La, Loota La, and Lootala. Referring back to the original recordings, I have adopted a potentially confusing, but relatively accurate, means to refer to this song. The original version performed by Sonny Mann is listed on his recordings as "Loota La." The remixed version, which supplements Sonny Mann's singing with performances by Denise Belfon and General Grant, appeared under the title "Lootala." Consequently, when I am referring to the original version, I use the title "Loota La," and when I am referring to the remix, I use the title "Lootala." To maximize confusion, however, the version of Sonny Mann's original recording that I refer to in the discography appears on the compact disc under the title "Lota La."