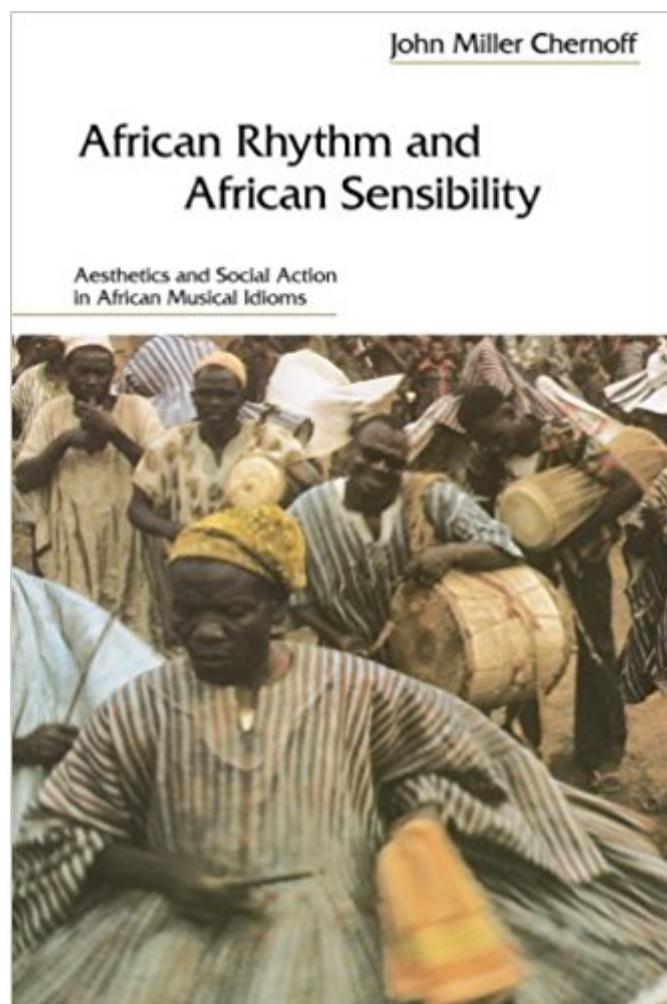


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# African Rhythm And African Sensibility: Aesthetics And Social Action In African Musical Idioms



## Synopsis

"We have in this book a Rosetta stone for mediating, or translating, African musical behavior and aesthetics." *Andrew Tracey, African Music*"John Miller Chernoff, who spent 10 years studying African drumming, has a flair for descriptive writing, and his first-person narratives should be easily understood by any reader, while ringing unmistakably true for the reader who has also been to West Africa." *Roderick Knight, Washington Post Book World*"Ethnomusicologists must be proud that their discipline has produced a book that will, beyond doubt, rank as a classic of African studies." *Peter Fryer, Research in Literatures*"A marvelous book. . . . Not many scholars will ever be able to achieve the kind of synthesis of 'doing' and 'writing about' their subject matter that Chernoff has achieved, but he has given us an excellent illustration of what is possible." *Chet Creider, Culture*"Chernoff develops a brilliant and penetrating musicological essay that is, at the same time, an intensely personal and even touching account of musical and cultural discovery that anyone with an interest in Africa can and should read. . . . No other writing comes close to approaching Chernoff's ability to convey a feeling of how African music 'works'" *James Koetting, Africana Journal*"Four stars. One of the few books I know of that talks of the political, social, and spiritual meanings of music. I was moved. It was so nice I read it twice." *David Byrne of "Talking Heads"*"The companion cassette tape has 44 examples of the music discussed in the book. It consists of field recordings illustrating cross-rhythms, multiple meters, call and response forms, etc.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a remarkable work that fits African music into its cultural context and is consistently provocative and enlightening. It's a world music classic, along with such studies as "The Latin Tinge," "The Brazilian Sound" and "Catch a Fire."

What begins as a primer in African polyrhythm becomes a spiritual quest to understand culture and humanity. Don't skip the endnotes in this impassioned examination of musical tonality and rhythm. Forging a tentative balance between scholarship and interpretation, Chernoff's book addresses the subconscious dynamics of culture, and unwittingly explains "race" more convincingly than the agitprop self-promoters whose explicit goal is to deconstruct the historical consciences of Africans and Europeans.

This book's sweetness, modesty, humor and graceful scholarship honors one of the world's greatest achievements. It's about drumming, and life.

this is THE classic on african music. you will find it listed in the bibliographies of almost any serious study that came later. it is in-depth and comprehensive. if you want to get just one: this is it.

This a must have text for anyone studying African music and culture. I recommend this text as a supplement to any graduate level musicology course. It is not a dull text and provides valuable insight for those seeding to know more about African music. I used it as a main source for studying and preparing for my doctoral exams.

I first read this wonderful book years ago for a class, but repurchased it now that I'm drumming a bit. Although some aspects might be a little tough going for those unfamiliar with music, it's a fascinating read on many levels, filled with wisdom and beauty. The author spent years learning with master drummers and includes interviews with them along with notations of traditional drum patterns. There are also two CDs which go with the book if you are lucky enough to find them, "Master Drummers of Dagbon", volumes 1 & 2.

having red just the two firts chapters i can say in advance that this book provides a solid explanation on cultural, social musical aspects on African music. among many possibilities those tools can be used to understand western musi.

This is one terrific book, an incredibly valuable research material source. I'm using it to help deepen my understanding not only of African musics, but also of African-American musics, of Jazz. I'm really glad that I chose to add this to my home library. It is a source I will go back to again & again.

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