Ideology and Popular Music in Socialist Cuba

By Peter Manuel

Much has been written on the subject of Cuban popular music, although most of this literature is in Spanish and tends to be written from a popular or journalistic rather than scholarly perspective. The usefulness of this material and the need for more academic studies are evident for several reasons, including the extraordinary and persistent international influence of Cuban popular music, the paucity of studies of the effect of the Cuban Revolution on music, and the important role of popular music in Cuban national culture. . . . This article explores some of the attitudes the different kinds of popular music in Cuba and discusses aspects of the relationship between the attitudes, popular tastes, cultural policy, and musical ideology.

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