

# In Defense Of Ska: Discovering the Underrated Genre



Ska music has often been the subject of ridicule, dismissed as a fad or relegated to the background by mainstream listeners. However, in recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in ska, as passionate advocates like author Aaron Carnes have stepped forward to defend its unique sound and cultural significance.

In Aaron Carnes' book, "In Defense Of Ska," he delves into the history and legacy of this often-misunderstood genre, shedding light on its roots, evolution, and impact on popular music. Through insightful interviews, personal anecdotes, and

meticulous research, Carnes presents a compelling case for recognizing ska as a genre worth celebrating.



## In Defense of Ska by Aaron Carnes (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 27117 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 323 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The alt attribute of the accompanying image captures the essence of ska perfectly. It showcases a lively ska band performing with impressive energy and enthusiasm. This image beautifully complements the theme of unity, joy, and infectious rhythms that define ska.

## The Roots and Evolution of Ska

Ska originated in Jamaica in the 1950s and gained popularity in the 1960s. Drawing inspiration from genres like calypso, mento, and rhythm and blues, ska featured a unique fusion of catchy melodies, syncopated beats, and horn sections that created a vibrant and danceable sound.

Carnes takes readers on a captivating journey through ska's evolution, tracing its influences and exploring the key figures who shaped the genre. From the early pioneers like Prince Buster and Derrick Morgan to the second wave acts such as

The Specials and The Toasters, Carnes highlights the diverse range of artists and their contributions to ska's growth.



## **The Cultural Significance and Impact of Ska**

While ska's infectious rhythms may have initially attracted listeners to the dancefloor, its lyrics often carried powerful messages of unity, social commentary, and personal expression. Carnes skillfully delves into the socio-political context that influenced ska's evolution, from its Jamaican origins rooted in post-colonial struggles to the multicultural scenes it sparked worldwide.

Through interviews with ska musicians, Carnes explores how ska acted as a voice for marginalized communities, providing a platform for discussions surrounding race, injustice, and identity. From the ska revival in the UK to the

third wave ska resurgence in the United States, this genre has continually adapted to reflect the concerns of its time.

The alt attribute of the second image perfectly captures the vibrant atmosphere of a ska festival, showcasing a lively crowd enjoying the genre's infectious music. The image conveys the collective energy and excitement that makes ska a truly immersive experience.

## **Rediscovering Ska: The Modern Revival**

Despite its earlier commercial success, ska had faded into obscurity by the 1980s. However, Carnes highlights the resurgent interest in ska in recent decades, as various underground scenes embrace the genre once again. Independent labels, dedicated fan communities, and a new generation of ska-influenced bands have all played a part in revitalizing the ska scene.

Carnes digs deep into the DIY ethos of these ska communities, showcasing the passion, creativity, and unity that fuels the genre's resurgence. Among the artists interviewed, the author provides compelling insights into the modern face of ska, including bands like The Interrupters, Save Ferris, and The Skatalites, who continue to captivate audiences with their unique blend of ska and punk.

## **: Ska's Resilience and Legacy**

Aaron Carnes' "In Defense Of Ska" is a testament to the enduring power and influence of this underrated musical genre. Through his meticulous research and personal experiences, Carnes reminds us that ska is not merely a fleeting trend but a cultural force that deserves recognition and respect.

By shedding light on the genre's history, cultural significance, and modern revival, Carnes invites readers and music enthusiasts to embrace ska's infectious rhythm

and vibrant spirit. In doing so, he ensures that ska's legacy will continue to evolve and inspire future generations of musicians and fans alike.

So, let us put aside any preconceived notions and join Aaron Carnes on this enlightening journey, celebrating the enduring power of ska and uncovering a genre that deserves more recognition than it has received.



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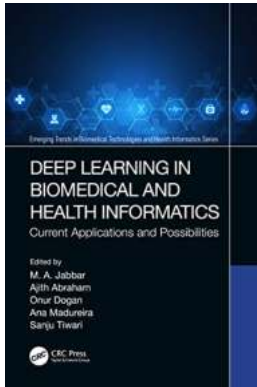
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Why doesn't ska get its due as a rich, diverse genre the way punk, metal, hip-hop and electronic music does? Or more to the point, why are ska fans so embarrassed of this music they love? The era of ska shame is officially over. In *Defense of Ska* is the much-needed response to years of ska-mockery. No longer do ska fans need to hide in the basement, skanking alone in their sharp suits, slim ties and porkpie hats. Now the time to take to the streets and fight music snobbery, or at least crank up the ska without being teased ruthlessly.

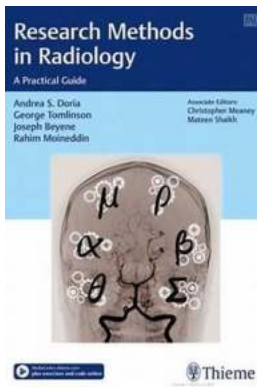
In a mix of interviews, essays, personal stories, historical snapshots, obscure anecdotes, and think pieces, *In Defense of Ska* dissects, analyzes and celebrates ska in exactly the way fans have been craving for decades. This book will enlist

ska-lovers as soldiers in the ska army, and challenge ska-haters' prejudices to the core.



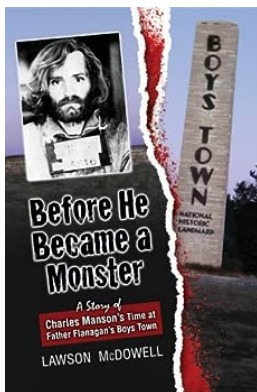
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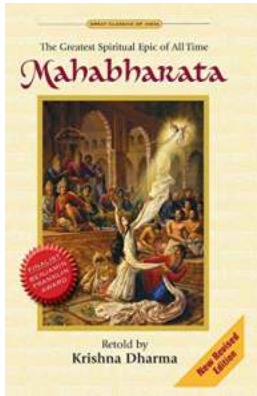
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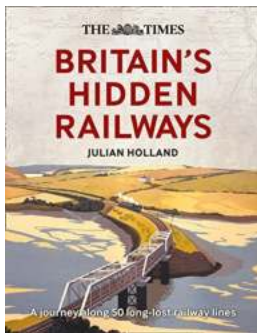
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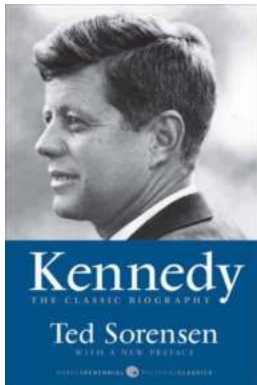
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