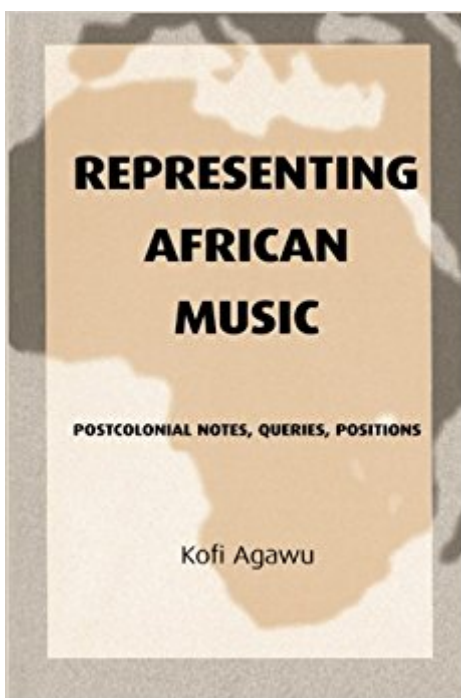


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# Representing African Music: Postcolonial Notes, Queries, Positions



## Synopsis

The aim of this book is to stimulate debate by offering a critique of discourse about African music. Who writes about African music, how, and why? What assumptions and prejudices influence the presentation of ethnographic data? Even the term "African music" suggests there is an agreed-upon meaning, but African music signifies differently to different people. This book also poses the question then, "What is African music?" Agawu offers a new and provocative look at the history of African music scholarship that will resonate with students of ethnomusicology and post-colonial studies. He offers an alternative "Afro-centric" means of understanding African music, and in doing so, illuminates a different mode of creativity beyond the usual provenance of Western criticism. This book will undoubtedly inspire heated debate--and new thinking--among musicologists, cultural theorists, and post-colonial thinkers. Also includes 15 musical examples.

## Book Information

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At times frankly informative, at times darkly ironic, and at times passionately earnest, *Representing African Music* reads like a resource text, satire, and manifesto all at once...[offers a] trenchant critique of otherwise neutral-seeming representations of African music.. makes many daring statements and reaches a series of alarming conclusions...Those in search of a genuinely global musical discourse...could do much worse than begin their quest by reading Agawu's *Representing African Music*. His is the unmistakable voice of authentic hope..

This text offers a well-informed critique of current post-colonial theory surrounding representations of Africa and African Music. It is a fantastic theoretical and bibliographical resource for the serious student of African Music.

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