



Riddim: Claves of African Origin

By *Billy Martin*

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Billy Martin, aka illy B, is a remarkable drummer, visual artist, and label owner who has successfully carved out his own musical path. As the organic beat-maker for Medeski, Martin & Wood, Martin has successfully blended world-music cultures in to his own unique style. The claves in this book open up rhythmic subdivisions, substitutions, and a much wider vocabulary to draw upon than just playing static beats. Call them systems, bell patterns, or claves, but be assured that there is much freedom to be gained from owning these riddims.

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Riddim: Claves of African Origin By Billy Martin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #590719 in Books
- Brand: Alfred Music
- Published on: 2008-02-01
- Released on: 2006-12-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.75" h x 8.75" w x .25" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 96 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

This unconventional method book, by Medeski Martin & Wood drummer Billy Martin, is a serious four-way coordination workout based on a series of four-, six-, and eight-beat Afro-clave patterns and a few odd-note rhythms. Each clave is presented in the author's unique notational system, which uses X's for played strokes and periods for rests. The book gets progressively more difficult as various bass drum figures and left-foot/left-hand accompanying patterns are added to the mix. On the included CD, billy demonstrates many of the examples to help you get an understanding for how hard these things can *groove*. --Michael Dawson, Modern Drummer Magazine

About the Author

Billy Martin, aka illyB, is a remarkable drummer, visual artist, and label owner, who has successfully carved out his own musical path. As the organic beat-maker for Medeski, Martin & Wood, Martin has successfully blended world-music cultures into his own style. Influenced by musicians who move people, Martin's playing does just that. His roots-based approach digs deep into the African-fed cultures of Brazil and the Caribbean and serves them up with New York culture and attitude. Fueled by these traditions, Martin plays on these rhythms with the heart of an improvisor with influences ranging from avant-guard to hip-hop. As you might expect, the result is infectious. Under all of Martin's riddims, or rhythms, are traditions that owe as much to bebop innovator Max Roach as reggae pioneer Sly Dunbar. And, as you will hear, Martin has not taken any short-cuts in mastering these rhythms. The result of his commitment to discovering the richness of rhythmic cultures, while developing his own personal sound on the instrument, is a very captivating sound on the drums.

Users Review

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Travis McDonald:

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