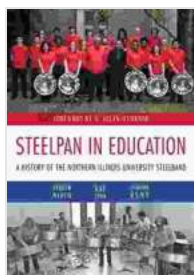


The Enchanting History of the Northern Illinois University Steelband

The Northern Illinois University Steelband is a world-renowned ensemble that has captivated audiences with its vibrant rhythms and infectious melodies for over four decades.

The steelband was founded in 1978 by Dr. Hugh Borde, a renowned Trinidadian musician and educator. Inspired by the vibrant steelpan music of his homeland, Borde sought to bring this unique sound to the American Midwest.



Steelpan in Education: A History of the Northern Illinois University Steelband

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4627 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 151 pages



With the support of NIU's School of Music and the university administration, Borde assembled a group of dedicated students who shared his passion for steelpan music. The early years of the group were marked by a period of experimentation and growth as they developed their sound and repertoire.

Over the years, the NIU Steelband has evolved into a highly accomplished and versatile ensemble. They have performed throughout the United States and internationally, sharing their music with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

In 1985, the steelband made its first international appearance at the World Steelband Festival in Trinidad and Tobago. This was a watershed moment for the group, as it earned them international recognition and established their reputation as a rising star in the steelpan world.

Since then, the NIU Steelband has continued to achieve great heights. They have performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center. They have also been featured on NPR, PBS, and the BBC.

In addition to its performance activities, the NIU Steelband is also actively involved in music education. They offer workshops, masterclasses, and residencies to students of all ages. The group is committed to fostering the next generation of steelpan musicians and sharing the joy of this music with the world.

The NIU Steelband is a true gem of the American musical landscape. Its vibrant rhythms, infectious melodies, and commitment to music education continue to inspire and enchant audiences around the world.

The Steelpan Instrument

The steelpan is a unique and captivating instrument that is native to Trinidad and Tobago. It is made from a 55-gallon steel oil drum that is cut, shaped, and tuned to create a range of musical pitches.

The steelpan is played using two mallets, one for each hand. The left hand plays the bass notes, while the right hand plays the melody. The instrument's unique sound is created by the combination of the metal's resonance and the player's technique.

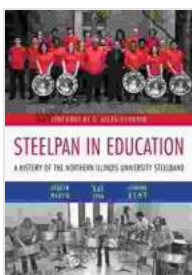
The steelpan is a versatile instrument that can be used to play a wide variety of musical genres, from traditional Caribbean music to jazz, classical, and pop.

The NIU Steelband's Impact

The NIU Steelband has had a profound impact on the American musical landscape. They have helped to popularize steelpan music in the United States and have inspired countless young musicians to pursue music.

The group's commitment to music education has also helped to ensure the continuation of this vibrant tradition. Their workshops, masterclasses, and residencies have helped to train a new generation of steelpan musicians and have spread the joy of this music to a wider audience.

The NIU Steelband is a true asset to the university and the community. Their music is a source of joy and inspiration for all who hear it. The group's dedication to music education is also helping to ensure that the vibrant tradition of steelpan music will continue to thrive for generations to come.



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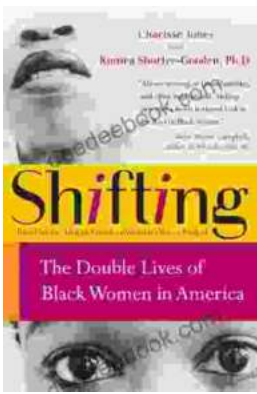
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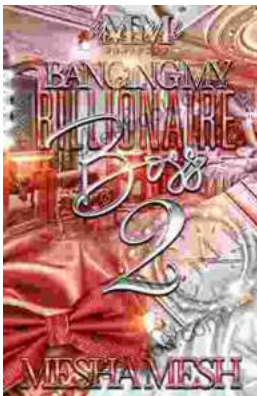
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