

# TIMOTHY ROMMEN

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Associate Professor  
Department of Music  
University of Pennsylvania

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## EDUCATION:

University of Chicago  
Ph.D., Ethnomusicology, June 2002

Northwestern University  
M.M., Musicology, June 1997

Trinity International University  
B.A., Music Performance/Theory, October 1994

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

University of Pennsylvania  
Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology, July 2009-

University of Pennsylvania  
Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology, July 2002-June 2009

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## PUBLICATIONS:

### BOOKS

*"Sounding a Borderless Caribbean: The Creole Geographies of Dominica's Popular Music.* (under contract, University of Chicago Press)

*"Funky Nassau": Roots, Routes, and Representation in Bahamian Popular Music.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

*"Me! Some Noise": Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.

### EDITED BOOKS

*Sun, Sea, and Sound: Music and Tourism in the circum-Caribbean.* Edited with Dan Neely. New York: Oxford University Press. (forthcoming April 2014.)

*Excursions in World Music, 6th Edition.* Nettl, et. al. Editor. New York: Prentice Hall, 2011.

## CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- “Music of Latin America” In *Excursions in World Music*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Prentice Hall, 2015. (in preparation).
- “Introduction: Notes on Music Touristics.” In *Sun, Sound, and Sand: Reflections on Music Touristics in the circum-Caribbean*. Edited with Dan Neely. New York: Oxford University Press. (forthcoming, April 2014).
- “Traditional Spaces, Transitional Sounds: Gospel Music and the Negotiation of Proximity in Trinidad.” In *Resounding Transcendence: Ethnomusicological Perspectives on Religion, Ritual, and Society*, edited by Philip V. Bohlman and Jeffers Engelhardt (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).
- “The Age of Discovery, Enlightenment, and Racism Theories.” In *Musikethnologie: Kompendien Music, Vol. 6*. Edited by Julio Mendivil, Oliver Seibt, and Raimund Vogels. Laaber, Germany: Laaber-Verlag (forthcoming, 2014).
- “Landscapes of Diaspora.” In *The Cambridge History of World Music*, edited by Philip V. Bohlman. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- “Preface.” In *Excursions in World Music*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Prentice Hall, 2011.
- “Music of the Caribbean.” In *Excursions in World Music*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Prentice Hall, 2007. .

## ARTICLES

- “Herskovits’ Legacy: Reflections on Suriname, Toco, and the *Myth of the Negro Past*” (in preparation).
- “*Antillais sans Frontières*: Sounding the Possibilities of a Borderless Caribbean through Dominica’s Popular Musics.” *Journal of Musicology* (forthcoming 2015).
- “Come Back Home?: Regional Travels, Global Encounters, and Local Nostalgias in Bahamian Popular Musics.” *Latin American Music Review* 30/2 (2009): 159-83.
- “Localize It’: Rock, Cosmopolitanism, and the Nation in Trinidad.” *Ethnomusicology* 51/3 (2007): 371-401.
- “Protestant Vibrations? Reggae, Rastafari, and Conscious Evangelicals.” *Popular Music* 25/2 (2006): 235–263.
- “Nationalism and the Soul: Gospelpypo as Independence” *Black Music Research Journal* 22/1 (2002): 37–64.
- “Home Sweet Home: Junkanoo as National Discourse in the Bahamas.” *Black Music Research Journal* 19/1 (1999): 71–92.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Review of “Judeo-Caribbean Currents: Music of the Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue in Curaçao.” *Anthology of Music Traditions in Israel*, Volume 22. *Yearbook for Traditional Music* (forthcoming 2012).
- Liner Notes. *Cat Island Rake-n-Scrape*. Compact disc to be published by Smithsonian Folkways Records (forthcoming, 2012).
- “Junkanoo.” *Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World, Genres Series*, The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc. (forthcoming 2011).
- “Rake-n-scrape.” *Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World, Genres Series*, The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc. (forthcoming 2011).
- “Goombay.” *Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World, Genres Series*, The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc. (forthcoming 2011).

- Review of Birth, Kevin K. "Bacchanalian Sentiments: Musical Experiences and Political Counterpoints in Trinidad." Durham: Duke University Press, 2008. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 66/1 (2010): 138-40.
- Review of Kuss, Malena, ed. "Performing the Caribbean Experience: Music in Latin America and the Caribbean, Volume 2." Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2008. *The New West Indian Guide* 84/1&2 (2010): 178-9.
- Review of Green, Garth L. and Philip W. Scher, eds. "Trinidad Carnival: The Cultural Politics of a Transnational Festival." Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. *Latin American Music Review* 29/2 (Fall/Winter 2008): 263-268.
- Review of Guilbault, Jocelyne. "Governing Sound: The Cultural Politics of Trinidad's Carnival Musics." Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 15/1, (Winter 2009): 205-207.
- "'Localize It': Some Reflections on Rock Music in Trinidad." In *Cariso! The Newsletter of the Alton Augustus Adams Music Research Institute* (Summer, 2005).
- "The Bahamas." *Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World, Volume 3: Locations A-L*, The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc., 2005.
- Recording Review Essay. "Alan Lomax and Caribbean Voyage: The 1962 Field Recordings." In *The World of Music* 46/2 (2004).
- Review of Manuel, Peter. "East Indian Music in the West Indies: Tan-Singing, Chutney, and the Making of Indo-Caribbean Culture." Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2000. *Yearbook for Traditional Music* 34 (2002): 200-202.
- Review of Muller, Carol Ann. "Rituals of Fertility and the Sacrifice of Desire: Nazarite Women's Ritual in South Africa." Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. *Journal of Religion* 82/1 (2002): 157-159.
- "*Watch Out My Children*": *Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad and Tobago*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Chicago, 2002.
- International Dictionary of Black Composers*. Entries on fifteen composers (Abrams, Muhal Richard; Bartholomew, Dave Louis; Batiste, Alvin; Bland, Ed(ward); Dorsey, Thomas Andrew; Hairston, Jester Joseph; Hemphill, Julius; Léon, Tania Justina; Nash, Gary Powell; Owens, Robert Lee; Singleton, Alvin; Swanson, Howard; Taylor, William Edward, Jr. (Billy); Toussaint, Allen; Williams, James Kimo), Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999. (32 pages in total)

#### INVITED PAPERS

- "*Antillais sans Frontières?: Considering the Possibilities of a Borderless Caribbean Through Dominica's Creole Musics*"—paper presented at the Ethnomusicology Colloquium Series at Columbia University, New York, NY, February 28, 2013.
- "Do Like the Natives Do?: Mass Tourism, Cover Bands, and Music Touristics in the Bahamas"—paper presented in the 2011-12 Colloquium Series at the Department of Music, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL, March 30, 2012.
- "Calypso Island?: Mass Tourism and Musical Horizons in the Bahamas, 1950-1973."—paper presented in the 2011-12 Colloquium Series at the Department of Music, Brown University, Providence, RI, November 30, 2011.
- "Living in a Tourist Honeypot': Goombay Music and Mass Tourism in the Bahamas."—paper presented in the 2010-11 Colloquium Series at the Department of Music, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, January 28, 2011.

- “Calypso Island’: Goombay Music and Tourism in the Bahamas”—paper presented in the 2010-11 Wilkinson Lecture Series at West Chester University, West Chester, PA, October 19, 2010.
- “Herskovits’ Legacy: Reflections on Suriname, Toco, and the *Myth of the Negro Past*”—paper presented in the 2007-08 Africana Classics series sponsored by the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 11, 2008.
- “I Ain’t Askin Fa Much:’ Rake-n-Scrape as Social Text in the Bahamas”—paper presented at the symposium, *Music, Text, and Politics in the Caribbean*, held at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, London, March 8–9, 2007.
- “Traditional Spaces, Transitional Sounds: Gospel Music and the Negotiation of Proximity in Trinidad”—paper presented at the symposium, *Sacred Music in Transition*, held at Yale University and Amherst College, October 20–21, 2006.
- “Performances Beyond a Boundary: Gospel Reggae and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad”—paper presented at the Northwestern University Musicology Colloquium, Evanston, IL, February 23, 2006.
- “Localize It’: Rock Music, Identity, and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad”—Colloquium presented at the Music Department, Columbia College, Chicago, October 24, 2005.
- “I Am Because We Are’: Gospel Music, Community, and Identity in Trinidad and the United States”—pre-concert lecture presented as part of the gospel music series of Penn Presents, held at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, University of Pennsylvania, June 12, 2004.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PAPERS

- “*Mizik a Nou*: Envisioning a Global Creole Community Through Dominica’s World Creole Music”—paper to be presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 14-17, 2013.
- “Religious Voices Unbounded: Sacred Music in the Public Sphere”—chair of panel to be presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 14-17, 2013.
- “A New Day Dawning”? Cosmopolitanism, Roots, and Post-Colonial Identities in the Music of Exuma, Dr. Offfff, and The Beginning of the End”—accepted for presentation at “The Bahamas at 40” conference, Nassau, Bahamas, June 14-17, 2013.
- “Cadance-lypso, Creole, and the Meaning of In-between: Dominican Music at Home and Abroad”—paper to be presented at the University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum, Philadelphia, PA, February 12, 2013.
- “Musical Performance and the Subversion of Tourism in Africa and the Diaspora”—respondent for panel presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Los Angeles, California, November 11-14, 2010.
- “Calypso Island’: Music, Migration, and Regional Sound in the Bahamas”—paper presented at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Columbus, Ohio, October 25–28, 2007.
- “Come Back Home:’ Regional Travels, Global Encounters, and Local Nostalgias in Bahamian Popular Musics”—paper presented at the University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum, Philadelphia, PA, January 9, 2007.
- “Localize It:’ Rock Music, Cosmopolitanism, and the Social Imaginary in Trinidad”—paper presented at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Honolulu, Hawaii, November 16–19, 2006.
- “The Ethics of Style: On the Poetics of Conviction in Caribbean Popular Music”—paper presented at the Center for Black Music Research’s International Conference, Chicago, March 15-19, 2006.
- “Goombay: Performing Bahamian Music Between the Caribbean, and North America”—paper presented at the Center for Black Music Research’s International Conference, Chicago, March 15-19, 2006.

- “Popular Music and the Ethics of Style in the circum-Caribbean”—Rockefeller Resident Fellow Lecture presented at the Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College, Chicago, July 16, 2005.
- “Localize It’: Rock Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad”—Rockefeller Resident Fellow Lecture presented at the Alton Augustus Adams Music Research Institute, University of the Virgin Islands, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI, November 19, 2004.
- “Watch Out My Children’: Ras Shorty I, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Belief in Trinidad”—paper presented at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Tucson, AZ, November 3–7, 2004.
- “Jamoo Journey’: Ras Shorty I, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Belief in Trinidad”—paper presented at Tulane University’s Caribbean Soundscapes Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 12–14, 2004.
- “Protestant Vibrations? Reggae, Rastafarianism, and Conscious Evangelicals”—paper presented at the University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum, Philadelphia, PA, October 18, 2003.
- “Protestant Vibrations? Reggae, Rastafarianism, and Conscious Evangelicals”—paper presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Miami, FL, October 2–5, 2003.
- “Home Sweet Home: Colonial Histories, Post-Colonial Identities, and Popular Musics in the Bahamas”—paper presented at the University of Pennsylvania Philomathean Society, April 3, 2003.
- “Home Sweet Home: Junkanoo as National Discourse in the Bahamas”—paper presented at the Center for Black Music Research’s International Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, May 23–27, 2001.
- “Performing Identities Across Space and Through Time: Baptist Ritual in Trinidad and Tobago”—paper presented at the Center for Black Music Research’s International Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, May 23–27, 2001.
- “Watch Out My Children: Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad and Tobago”—paper presented at EthNoise, an ethnomusicology forum at the University of Chicago, April 26, 2001.
- “Techno-Aurality”—paper presented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Bloomington, IN, October 21–25, 1998.
- “Home Sweet Home: Writing Diaspora Across Time and Space in the Bahamas”—paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology, Midwest Chapter’s Annual Conference, Bowling Green, OH, April 17–19, 1998.
- “Sounds of Summer: Drum Corps International as Americana”—paper presented at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology’s National Conference, “Sounds of Music,” Cambridge, England, March, 1998.
- “The Baptist Churches of Trinidad and Tobago: Musical Diasporas in Conflict”—paper accepted for presentation at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology’s National Conference, “Diasporas,” Limerick, Republic of Ireland, March, 1997.

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Mellon Faculty Research Fellowship, Penn Humanities Forum, “Peripheries,” University of Pennsylvania (2012–2013)
- Course Development Grant, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2012–2013)
- University Research Foundation Grant, University of Pennsylvania (20012–2013)
- Awarded the Society for Ethnomusicology’s Alan Merriam Prize for “*Mek Some Noise’: Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad* (2008). This prize recognizes the most distinguished, published English-language monograph in the field of ethnomusicology.

Course Development Grant, Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania (2008)

University Research Foundation Grant, University of Pennsylvania (2007-2008)

Mellon Faculty Research Fellowship, Penn Humanities Forum, "Travel," University of Pennsylvania (2006–2007)

Course Development Grant, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2005–2006)

Rockefeller Resident Fellowship, Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College, Chicago (2004–2005)

Course Development Grant, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2003–2004)

Course Development Grant, Center for Community Partnerships at Penn, University of Pennsylvania (2003–2004)

Mellon Faculty Research Fellowship, Penn Humanities Forum, "Belief," University of Pennsylvania (2003–2004)

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2001–2002)

U.S. Fulbright Student Grant, Trinidad and Tobago (1999–2000)

#### RESEARCH:

##### Ongoing Research:

Major research interests in folk and popular sacred musics of the Caribbean; belief, identity, and popular music; the ethics of style; diaspora; critical theory; tourism; and the intellectual history of ethnomusicology. Currently working on an edited collection concerning music tourism in the circum-Caribbean, on a long-term ethnographic research project involving creole popular musics in Dominica, and on a co-authored book rethinking disciplinarity in music studies.

#### COURSES TAUGHT:

##### Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Music in World Cultures (MUSC 50)  
Introduction to Global Music (MUSC 150)  
Latin American Music (MUSC 158)  
Caribbean Music and Diaspora (MUSC 258)  
Accordions of the New World (MUSC 157)

##### Graduate Courses:

Intellectual History of Ethnomusicology (MUSC 605)  
Writing About Music (MUSC 608)  
Field Methods in Ethnomusicology (MUSC 650/450)  
Caribbean Music and the Ethics of Style (MUSC 705)  
Caribbean Popular Music and Tourism (MUSC 705)  
Theorizing the circum-Caribbean (MUSC 705)

## DISSERTATIONS ADVISED

## First Reader:

- Gregory Robinson (Ph.D. '08, Assistant Professor at George Mason University [tenure track]):  
*"Entre Gauchos No Hay Fronteras"*: Traditional Music and the Post-Frontier in Chilean Patagonia
- Monique Ingalls (Ph.D. '08, Postdoctoral Fellow at Cambridge University [three-year]):  
 "You Are Awesome in this Place": Sound, Space, and Identity in Contemporary American Evangelical Worship
- Darien Lamén (Ph.D. '11, Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin Madison [two-year]):  
 Mobilizing Regionalism at Land's End: Popular Guitar Music and the Caribbeanization of the Brazilian Amazon
- Ian MacMillen (Ph.D. '12, Visiting Assistant Professor and Post-Doctoral Fellow at Oberlin College [two-year]):  
*"Pravi Tamburas"*: Tambura Music across Ethnic and Geographic Divides in Croatia and its Intimates
- Christine Thu Ni Dang  
 Writing stage, Music and the Performance of Faith in Senegal
- Jessamyn Doan  
 Writing stage, Race and Whiteness in Cajun Music
- Ruthie Meadows  
 Research stage, Mediation of Aurality, the Sensorial, and Afro-religious Materiality in Cuban Rumba
- Jessica Swanston  
 Research stage, Respectability, Interpretability, and Ambivalence in St. Kitts and Nevis
- Laura Donnelly  
 Research stage, The Politics and Poetics of French Antillean and Haitian Music in Paris

## Second Reader:

- Jennifer Ryan (Ph.D. '08, Assistant Professor at Indiana State University [tenure track]):  
 "Can I Get a Witness?" Soul and Salvation in Memphis Music
- Jennifer Noakes (Ph.D. '08):  
 From the Top of the Mountain: Traditional Music and the Politics of Place in the Central Appalachian Coalfields
- Daniel Party (Ph.D. '05, Associate Professor at St. Mary's College):  
*Placer Culpable*: Class, Gender, and Melodrama in Latin-American Balada
- Jennifer Kyker (Ph.D. '11, Assistant Professor at Eastman Conservatory of Music [tenure track]):  
 A Person Among Others: Oliver Mtukudzi, Popular Music, and Politics in Postcolonial Zimbabwe
- John Meyers (Ph.D. '11):  
 Rock and Roll Never Forgets: Memory, History, and Performance among Tribute Bands
- Matthew Valnes (Ph.D. '12, Instructor at Duke University [one-year]):  
 "We Getting Funky on the Scene": Improvisation and Live Performance in Funk Music

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE AND EXTERNAL SERVICE

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1/11–present | Co-editor, Chicago Studies in Ethnomusicology<br>University of Chicago Press  |
| 10/97–8/99   | Editorial Assistant, <i>International Dictionary of Black Composers</i><br>Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College, Chicago |
| 8/12–present | Member, Charlotte W. Newcombe Screening Committee<br>Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation                                    |

8/12-present	Referee, National Humanities Center Fellowships National Humanities Center
1/08-1/11	Member, International Dissertation Research Fellowship Screening Committee Social Science Research Council
7/09-7/10	Member, U.S. Student Fulbright National Screening Committee Institute of International Education
1/13-3/13	Program Committee, Mid Atlantic Chapter of SEM, 2013 Society for Ethnomusicology
11/10-11/11	Local Arrangements Committee, 56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Society for Ethnomusicology
1/10-11/10	Program Committee, 55 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – Sound Ecologies Society for Ethnomusicology

## DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

7/09-7/12	Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Music University of Pennsylvania
7/02-present	Committees and Service within the Department of Music University of Pennsylvania <i>Committees:</i> Admissions, Comprehensive Exams, Theory Searches, Curriculum Development <i>Service:</i> German Exams, Music 50 Faculty Supervisor, Music 10 Examinations, Samba Ensemble, Independent Studies, and Guided Readings
7/10-present	Committee for Undergraduate Education University of Pennsylvania
1/08-7/09	Cultural Diversity in the United States, Curriculum Committee University of Pennsylvania
7/07-present	Greenfield Intercultural Center Advisory Board University of Pennsylvania
7/07-present	Penn Humanities Forum Advisory Board University of Pennsylvania
7/11-7/12	University Council Committee on Academic and Related Affairs University of Pennsylvania
7/10-7/11	Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Research University of Pennsylvania