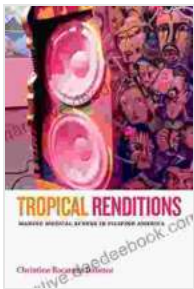


# Making Musical Scenes in Filipino America: Refiguring American Music

Filipino Americans have a long and rich history of musical expression in the United States. From the early days of Filipino immigration to the present day, Filipino American musicians have used music to create a sense of community, to express their cultural identity, and to challenge mainstream notions of American music. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the study of Filipino American music, and scholars have begun to document the many ways in which Filipino American musicians have shaped American music.



## Tropical Renditions: Making Musical Scenes in Filipino America (Refiguring American Music)

by Christine Bacareza Balance

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 249 pages



This article explores the ways in which Filipino American musicians have created musical scenes that have refigured American music. By drawing on ethnographic research conducted in the San Francisco Bay Area, the article shows how Filipino American musicians have used music to create a

space for themselves within the larger American music landscape. The article also examines the ways in which Filipino American musicians have used music to challenge and reimagine mainstream notions of American music.

## **Creating Musical Scenes**

Filipino American musicians have created a variety of musical scenes throughout the United States. These scenes have provided a space for Filipino American musicians to come together and share their music with each other. They have also served as a way for Filipino American musicians to connect with other Filipino Americans and to build a sense of community. Some scenes may simply be one or two local bands who play together regularly and at different local venues.

One of the most well-known Filipino American musical scenes is the San Francisco Bay Area's "Filharmonic" scene. The Filharmonic scene emerged in the early 1990s and is characterized by its eclectic mix of musical styles, including rock, hip-hop, soul, and funk. Filharmonic musicians often incorporate traditional Filipino music into their songs, and they frequently perform at community events and festivals.

The Filharmonic scene has been a major force in the development of Filipino American music. It has helped to raise the profile of Filipino American musicians and it has inspired a new generation of Filipino American musicians to create their own music. The Filharmonic scene has also helped to create a sense of community among Filipino Americans in the Bay Area.

## **Expressing Cultural Identity**

Music is a powerful way for people to express their cultural identity. Filipino American musicians have used music to express their Filipino heritage and to connect with other Filipino Americans. They have done this by incorporating traditional Filipino music into their songs, by singing in Tagalog, and by writing songs about Filipino American experiences.

One example of a Filipino American musician who has used music to express his cultural identity is the rapper and producer Bambu. Bambu's music is a mix of hip-hop, soul, and funk, and he often incorporates traditional Filipino instruments into his songs. Bambu's lyrics frequently address issues of Filipino American identity and culture. For example, in his song "Brown Girl," Bambu raps about the beauty and strength of Filipino women.

Bambu's music has resonated with many Filipino Americans, who see him as a role model and an inspiration. He has helped to raise the profile of Filipino American music and he has inspired a new generation of Filipino American musicians to create their own music.

### **Challenging Mainstream Notions of American Music**

Filipino American musicians have also used music to challenge mainstream notions of American music. They have done this by creating music that does not fit into traditional categories and by using music to challenge stereotypes about Filipino Americans. For example, in early years, Filipino bands like The Hues Corporation would sometimes perform without their Filipino members to avoid discrimination.

One example of a Filipino American musician who has challenged mainstream notions of American music is the singer and songwriter Jessica

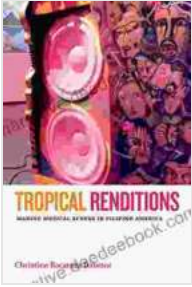
Sanchez. Sanchez is a Filipino American singer who rose to fame after appearing on the television show "American Idol." Sanchez's music is a mix of pop, soul, and R&B, and she often incorporates Filipino elements into her songs. Sanchez's music has been praised for its originality and its ability to appeal to a wide range of listeners.

Sanchez's music has also been praised for its ability to challenge stereotypes about Filipino Americans. Sanchez is a strong and confident woman, and her music reflects her own self-confidence. She is not afraid to speak her mind, and she has used her music to speak out against racism and discrimination.

Sanchez is one of many Filipino American musicians who are challenging mainstream notions of American music. These musicians are creating music that is unique and original, and they are not afraid to speak their minds. They are redefining what it means to be an American musician, and they are inspiring a new generation of Filipino American musicians to follow in their footsteps.

Filipino American musicians have made significant contributions to American music. They have created musical scenes that have provided a space for Filipino American musicians to come together and share their music with each other. They have also used music to express their cultural identity and to challenge mainstream notions of American music. Filipino American musicians are refiguring American music, and they are inspiring a new generation of musicians to create their own music.

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