

# Rashoumon Angelique Ruthven: A Trailblazing Musicologist, Virtuoso Harpist, and Devoted Teacher



**Rashoumon** by Angelique Ruthven

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Rashoumon Angelique Ruthven is a Jamaican-born musicologist, harpist, and educator whose pioneering work has significantly contributed to our understanding of Jamaican and Caribbean music. Her groundbreaking research, virtuoso harpistry, and unwavering commitment to music education have left an indelible mark on the musical landscape of Jamaica and beyond.

## **Early Life and Education**

Rashoumon Angelique Ruthven was born in Kingston, Jamaica, on May 14, 1944. Her early exposure to music ignited a passion that would shape her life. She began playing the piano at the age of six and later took up the harp at the age of 12 under the tutelage of the renowned Jamaican harpist, Marjorie Whyllie.

Ruthven pursued her formal music education at the Jamaica School of Music, where she completed her Associate Diploma in Music. She then continued her studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Music and a Master of Philosophy degree in Musicology.

## **Musicological Research**

Ruthven's musicological research has focused primarily on the music of Jamaica and the Caribbean. Her groundbreaking dissertation, "The Development of Jamaican Music: An Historical and Analytical Study," was awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Dissertation at UWI in 1979. This seminal work provided a comprehensive historical and analytical survey of Jamaican music from its African roots to the emergence of modern genres such as reggae.

Ruthven's research has also addressed the underrepresented role of women in Caribbean music. Her article, "Women in Caribbean Music: A Historical Perspective," published in the Journal of the International Library of African Music, sheds light on the significant contributions of female musicians to Caribbean musical traditions.

## **Harpistry**

As a harpist, Ruthven is renowned for her virtuosity and her unique approach to Caribbean harp music. She has performed extensively throughout Jamaica, the Caribbean, and internationally, showcasing the versatility of the harp and its ability to transcend cultural boundaries.

Ruthven's harp repertoire spans a wide range of musical styles, from classical to traditional Jamaican folk songs. She has collaborated with various artists, including the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra, the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, and the University Singers.



## **Music Education**

Ruthven's passion for music education is evident in her dedicated work with students of all ages. She has taught at various institutions, including the Jamaica School of Music, the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, and the University of the West Indies.

As a teacher, Ruthven is known for her rigorous approach, her ability to inspire students, and her unwavering belief in their potential. She has mentored countless young musicians, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in music.

## **Legacy**

Rashoumon Angelique Ruthven's contributions to Jamaican and Caribbean music are immeasurable. Her pioneering research has expanded our knowledge of the region's musical traditions, her harpistry has captivated audiences worldwide, and her teaching has nurtured generations of musicians.

Ruthven's legacy extends far beyond her individual achievements. She has played a pivotal role in shaping the musical landscape of Jamaica and the Caribbean, inspiring a new appreciation for the rich musical heritage of the region and fostering a thriving musical community.

## **Awards and Recognition**

Ruthven's exceptional contributions to music have been widely recognized. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including:

\* The Order of Distinction (Commander Class) from the Government of Jamaica  
\* The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Dissertation from UWI  
\* The Philip Sherlock Award for Excellence in Teaching  
\* The Institute of Jamaica's Musgrave Gold Medal

Rashoumon Angelique Ruthven is a remarkable figure whose multifaceted contributions to music have left an indelible mark on Jamaican and Caribbean culture. As a pioneering musicologist, virtuoso harpist, and

devoted teacher, she has not only expanded our understanding of Caribbean music but has also inspired countless individuals to pursue their musical dreams. Ruthven's legacy will continue to inspire and enrich the musical landscape of Jamaica and the Caribbean for generations to come.



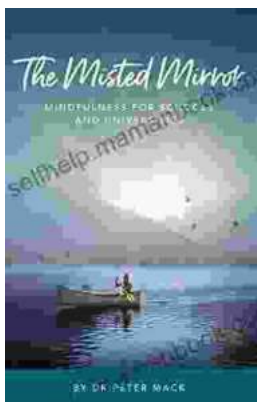
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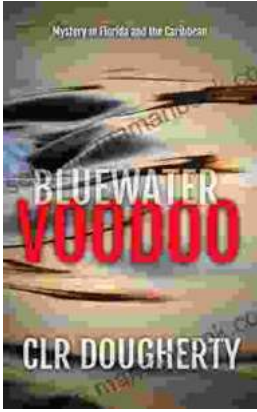
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