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Michael B. MacDonald

# Remix and Life Hack in Hip Hop

Towards a Critical Pedagogy of Music

Series: Youth, Media, & Culture Series

- **Remix and Life Hack: Towards a Critical Pedagogy of Music is the first book of its kind to locate music education theory in the day-to-day practices of youth hiphoppas**
- **Remix and Life Hack: Towards a Critical Pedagogy of Music argues that music education does not need to be invented, it is happening in the daily learning practices of writing and speaking rhymes, making melodies and rhythms, drawing images, and syncing movement. This observation can be the beginning of a critical pedagogy of music**
- **When music education is focused on teaching the techniques of sound production and music appreciation it is easy to forget the role music making has in the production of community. Remix and Life H**

Many hiphoppas labour to sustain Hiphop Kulture in their communities far from the big stages, world tours, and hit singles enjoyed by a shockingly few American hiphoppas. The creative labour of these few mega stars is calculated in billions of dollars. But for most hiphoppas, their creative labour may never get expressed in economic terms. Instead it is expressed in social capital, the production of collective and individual subjectivities, the bonds of love that build and hold communities together, and the healing of broken hearts, broken homes, and broken neighborhoods in broken cities. Hiphop Kulture is NOT a music genre, it is MUCH more, and exploring how the sharing of aesthetic resources builds community, and how situated learning plays a necessary role in cultural sustainability draws out questions that may lead to a model of community located cultural education, and a starting point for a critical pedagogy of music. "I ain't going to front, academics talking about hiphop scares me and often pisses me off. I'm protective about this culture like it's my own baby because it's meant so much to me and my close friends. In my less angry moments I do appreciate the fact that this culture still has so much to give to the rest of the world and that the next level is what we give back. Well, we need allies in this complex world to move things forward.

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