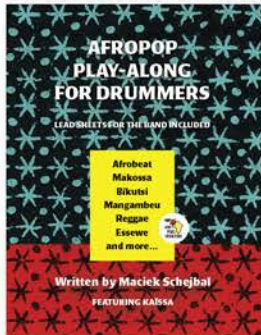


MULTIMEDIA

RATINGS SCALE



Afropop Play-Along for Drummers

by Maciek Schejbal

The content of this package centers on music from an album that the author, Drummers Collective instructor Maciek Schejbal, produced and mixed with the Cameroonian singer Kaïssa. Since he had access to the masters, Schejbal was able to open up the original recording sessions and remove the drum tracks to create versions for drummers to jam to. Nine songs are included, in versions with or without a click, and five of the songs come with a mix featuring reference drums.

The sixty-four-page book includes explanatory text for each song, plus a few preparatory exercises. The beats aren't easy, but the music is infectious, and the grooves, once you get a handle on them, are a ton of fun to play. "Eyoum" features a deceptive mangambeu groove that emphasizes the middle note of the triplet, while "Alea So" utilizes a Congolese rumba, called soukous, that focuses on the "e" of each beat. "Ombwa Te" is in a more familiar Afrobeat feel, "O Si Keka" has a reggae one-drop, and the funky grooves to "To Ndje" and "Senga" emphasize the "a" of beat 1. Other styles explored are the three-over-four feel of the Cameroon genre bikutsi and the soca-like syncopation of essewe. The book also comes with lead sheets for each song, so you and your rhythm-section friends can give the tunes a try at your next jam session. If you're looking for fresh and exciting play-along material, this is some of the best. (\$25, Afro-Polka Productions) **Michael Dawson**

