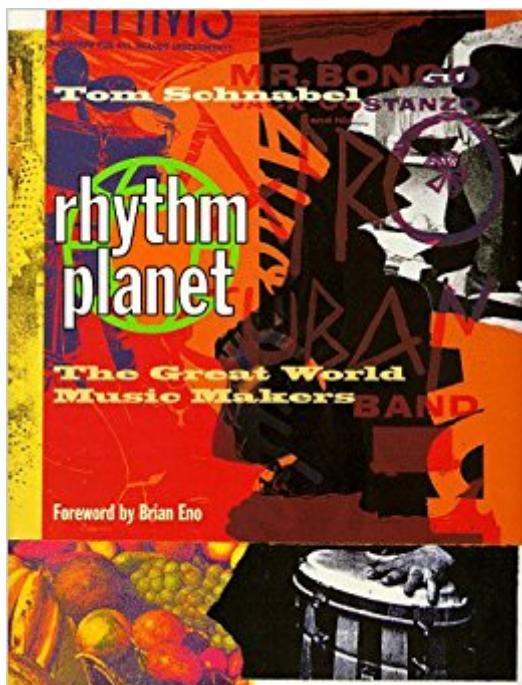


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# Rhythm Planet: The Great World Music Makers



## **Synopsis**

When World Music first captured the public imagination in the early 1980's, NPR's Tom Schnabel was in the vanguard. He introduced international musicians to public radio and pioneered an eclectic format that has become a standard for alternative radio nationwide. Inspired by more than a decade of interviewing international artists and playing their music, Schnabel has mapped a global tour of the international figures making music history today. A stunningly illustrated and fact-filled journey, *Rhythm Planet* also features selected discographies and Schnabel's list of essential World Music recordings. An antidote to the latest flavor of pop, *Rhythm Planet* is an affirmation of what music can be: the most passionate expression of the human spirit, transcending limits of culture and language.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gleaned from radio interviews conducted over the last 15 years at KCRW Santa Monica, *Rhythm Planet* features conversations with and career overviews of many of the greatest musical innovators on the planet--past and present. As host of the program "Morning Becomes Eclectic," Schnabel refined a music format that was to become highly influential, especially in its exploration of world music. With a foreword by Brian Eno, *Rhythm Planet* goes well beyond the standard reference work on world-music artists to include such musicians as Tom Waits, Segovia, and Egyptian legend Umm Kulthum. The book threads bibliographic information and conversation together, and the history, cultural perspective, and creative objectives of these artists are brought into vivid relief through

intelligent questioning and intimate response, free of the hyperbole often associated with the promotion of particular current releases. Fela Kuti, interviewed in 1986--just after his release from prison in Nigeria--offers priceless insight on how his upbringing and later sojourn in '60s Los Angeles shaped his career and political outspokenness. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan also talks about the universal transcendence that music can accomplish. Khaled, Baaba Maal, Astor Piazzolla, Cesaria Evora, Ravi Shankar, and Tito Puente are among the 35 artists who shed light on the workings of their own creative muses. The function of music as an integral part of everyday life around the globe is apparent on every page. Stunning graphics and pictures make this a great coffee-table item, albeit one that may halt conversation as guests will likely become immersed in it for a long time.

--Derek Rath

Schnabel's book has beautiful graphics and is well presented in an easy-to-read format. It is a good introduction to the major figures of world music and fills us in a little on their lives and cultural contexts. My other favorite world music book is "The Brazilian Sound" (Temple University Press, 1998), which I also purchased through .com.

The real pleasure in this book is not so much the artist synopses, which are brief, but in the diversity of artists described. For instance, I've been a Jobim listener for years, and found his section a little lacking, but... I had never heard of Oumou Sangare, and what a joy it was when I went out and bought one of her albums. Thanks for opening my ears!

This book is biled as the bible for "World Music" written by the man that first coined the phrase. Tom is a KCRW disk jockey in Santa Monica, CA and is the authority on this wonderful music.

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