

Acknowledgments

This book was a nerdy dream of mine, the kind that young academics have when they get enthusiastic about an academic book series they “grew up” with. As a student, then as an educator, my copies of books such as *The Cambridge Companions to Jazz, Beethoven, Rock and Pop*, and *Schubert* are well worn, and used year on year for numerous purposes. Victoria Cooper helped make my nerdy dream a reality. Special thanks to her and to Fleur Jones and Emma Collison at the press for their patience and advice. I would also like to thank all the contributors to the volume and for their enthusiasm for the project. Many of the authors are scholars whom I met at conferences where we ended up having long and passionate discussions about hip-hop, and I thank them for always reinvigorating me with passion for the topic. I’d like to think we are the Wu-Tang Clan of hip-hop academics, a diverse collective with different skills that has created a force more powerful than the sum of its parts.

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