



## Creative License: The Law and Culture of Digital Sampling

By Kembrew McLeod, Peter DiCola

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Creative License: The Law and Culture of Digital Sampling, Kembrew McLeod, Peter DiCola, How did the Depression-era folk-song collector Alan Lomax end up with a song-writing credit on Jay-Z's song "Takeover"? Why doesn't Clyde Stubblefield, the primary drummer on James Brown recordings from the late 1960s, including "Funky Drummer" and "Cold Sweat," get paid for other musicians' frequent use of the beats he performed on those songs? The music industry's approach to digital sampling incorporating snippets of existing recordings into new ones holds the answers. Exploring the complexities and contradictions in how samples are licensed, Kembrew McLeod and Peter DiCola interviewed more than 100 musicians, managers, lawyers, industry professionals, journalists, and scholars. Based on those interviews, Creative License puts digital sampling into historical, cultural, and legal context. It describes hip-hop during its sample-heavy golden age in the 1980s and early 1990s; the lawsuits that shaped U.S. copyright law on sampling; and the labyrinthine licensing process that musicians must now navigate. The authors argue that the current system for licensing samples is inefficient and limits creativity. For instance, by estimating the present-day licensing fees for the Beastie Boys' *Paul's Boutique* (1989) and Public Enemy's...



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