

# Queer Voices in Hip Hop

Cultures, Communities, and Contemporary Performance

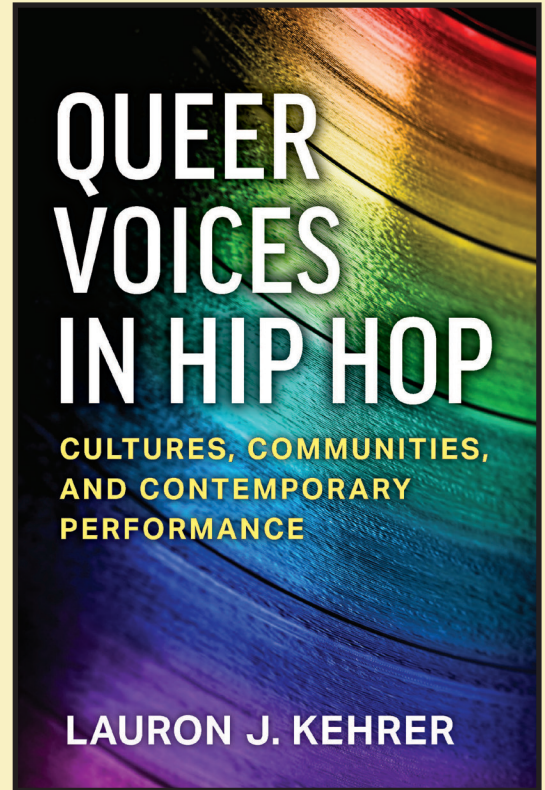
A volume in the Tracking Pop series

Notions of hip hop authenticity, as expressed both within hip hop communities and in the larger American culture, rely on the construction of the rapper as a Black, masculine, heterosexual, cisgender man who enacts a narrative of struggle and success. In *Queer Voices in Hip Hop*, Lauron Kehrer turns our attention to openly queer and trans rappers and positions them within a longer Black queer musical lineage. Combining musical, textual, and visual analysis with reception history, this book reclaims queer involvement in hip hop by tracing the genre's beginnings within Black and Latinx queer music-making practices and spaces, demonstrating that queer and trans rappers draw on Ballroom and other cultural expressions particular to queer and trans communities of color in their work in order to articulate their subject positions. By centering the performances of openly queer and trans artists of color, *Queer Voices in Hip Hop* reclaims their work as essential to the development and persistence of hip hop in the United States as it tells the story of the queer roots of hip hop.

**Lauron J. Kehrer** is Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and Musicology at Western Michigan University.

*“Queer Voices in Hip Hop”* resists the demonization of hip hop as a flat, toxically masculine space and the inaccurate gender binary that has had a hold in the field of music research on hip hop and identity performance.”

—Alisha Lola Jones, author of *Flaming? The Peculiar Theopolitics of Fire and Desire in Black Male Gospel Performance*



**SAVE 30% AT  
PRESS.UMICH.EDU  
WITH PROMOTION CODE  
UMF22**

**PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05568-5 | \$19.95**

**HARDCOVER 978-0-472-07568-3 | \$65**

**ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN OPEN ACCESS EBOOK.**



**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS**

Order at [www.press.umich.edu](http://www.press.umich.edu) or 800.621.2736