For a brief period in the 1980s Brooklyn emerged as the hub of the soca (Soul Calypso) music universe. Soca, a hybrid style of Trinidadian calypso and African-American soul/disco, flourished in Brooklyn following the rapid growth of the borough’s English-speaking Caribbean community and the establishment of a Labor Day Carnival in the early 1970s. This presentation will examine Brooklyn soca as a diasporic transnational expression resulting from the cyclical flow of musical practices across national borders between the Caribbean and Brooklyn.

**Ray Allen** is Professor of Music and American Studies at Brooklyn College. He has authored numerous books and articles on American folk and popular music including his coedited collection *Island Sounds in the Global City: Caribbean Popular Music in New York*. He is currently working on a book project titled: *Jump Up! Caribbean Carnival Music in New York*.

**Monday, March 21st at 11:00 a.m.**
**Tanger Auditorium, Brooklyn College Library**

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