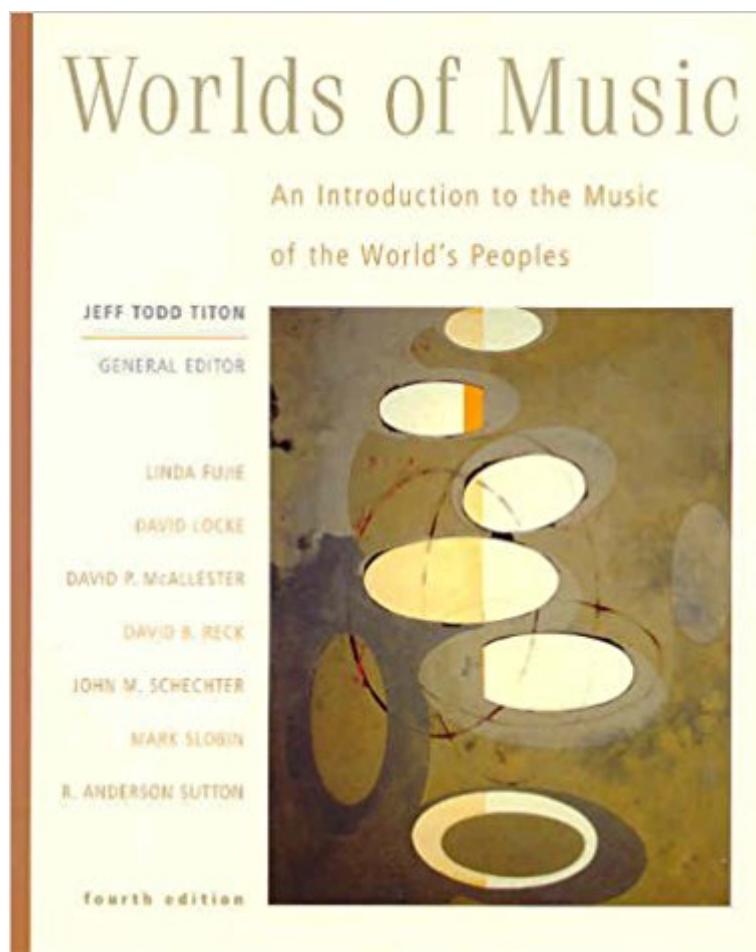


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Worlds Of Music: An Introduction To The Music Of The World's Peoples



Synopsis

This market-leading, best-selling text covers ethnomusicology-the study of music in a people's way of life, which treats music as a distillation of cultural styles. The authors of this text approach diverse musical styles with the desire to understand them on their own terms-as the people who make the music would understand them. The text is organized by region. Each study focuses on the life histories and autobiographies that are essential to understanding music as a human activity. Song lyrics are singled out by the authors as a way to understand the meaning and purpose of musical performances. Musical examples, or transcriptions, are included on the accompanying CDs, and are treated throughout as points of departure for discussion. Student music-making projects-singing, building and playing instruments-greatly increase music appreciation and allow students to experience firsthand what it's like to be an ethnomusicologist puzzling out unfamiliar music. This text seeks to provide as much pleasure as knowledge, fostering lifelong curiosity and a desire to experience and appreciate music in all its forms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been teaching a world music course out of this textbook for a couple years now and will say that there are some positives to it: the CD compilation is great, good variety and interesting and there is some really good, detailed information that students would find interesting-it's good for people who go into world music without knowing much, it can be engaging and intriguing. It was the book I used as a student. But, on the other hand from an academic, teaching point of view there are some flaws.

I will admit it's difficult to cover an entire world of music in one book, it must be an editor's nightmare on how to arrange the information. But one problem is that some chapters focus on a country or region within a country, i.e. - Japan, South India, Native America. Whereas other chapters focus too broadly-an entire chapter that covers the whole continent of Africa and one on South America!! It doesn't cover Brazil which is full of various musical traditions and is such a large country. Some of the chosen examples of traditions are highly localized too and not indicative of the general population. My Bosnian student had never heard of Bosnian ganga singing until this class. It's not that the information is at all wrong or presented in a bad way, it just needs clarification for students. You wouldn't want them walking away from a class thinking these musical traditions are known and practiced by the entire population (as with ganga singing). One other problem is that there is no chapter on the Middle East which is really unfortunate. I don't think this is a horrible textbook, of the few out there, this is probably the better one. Students can get a lot out of it, and especially the CDs, but if you teach with it, I highly suggest using supplemental information and even make your students be critical of the information they find in the book as well as how it's arranged.

This book is wonder and a treasure trove of musical ideas from around the planet. For example, how many music historians are aware of how the Native Americans used song to identify each of their tribes? Mr. Titon has provided very interesting facts about music making from many world cultures. He has also produced a 3 CD sound compilation of musical examples for this book that is indispensable. If you're tired of today's bland market of music that has sadly squashed historical music making of any kind, this book is an excellent journey into the world's most basic roots of song and music.

While the text book is informative and enlightening on many of the aspects of World Music, it is frustrating that he continually puts out newer editions that have minimal changes except for the CD. For the general information gathered from this text, anyone will be able to gain loads of interesting facts about the different cultures and their musical ceremonies/practices.

The Kindle Edition is missing many text and musical notation examples from the print book, and are replaced by "Text not available due to copyright restrictions." This makes the Kindle edition of this text unsuitable for use in a university course. Cengage and should not have released the electronic version of this book in this state.

Like I said, it is a great book, in depth and interesting. Although the author could have used a lesson in paraphrasing and outlining the chapters, perhaps with chapter summary, but overall I was satisfied with the book and especially the class! Balinese Gamelan music and Carnatic Indian music is by far some of the coolest beats ever!

Frustrated that we had to buy the book and CDs separately. It was clear from the description that the book purchase does not include the CDs, but what is not as clear is that the "CD Set" is not the inclusive book and CDs set, it is just the CDs. We bought the CD set and then had to come back later and buy the book when we realized that they were entirely separate. So, we did not have the book on time for class. Kinda irritating.

Bought the book new but didn't realize that the CD's are sold separate, look for a used book deal that has them included if you are going to need them!!

It provides much more information than I ever thought I would need for a college class. Details on the countries of the world especially overwhelming in this, ethnomusicology study. I hope to get through this book and get on with my life.

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