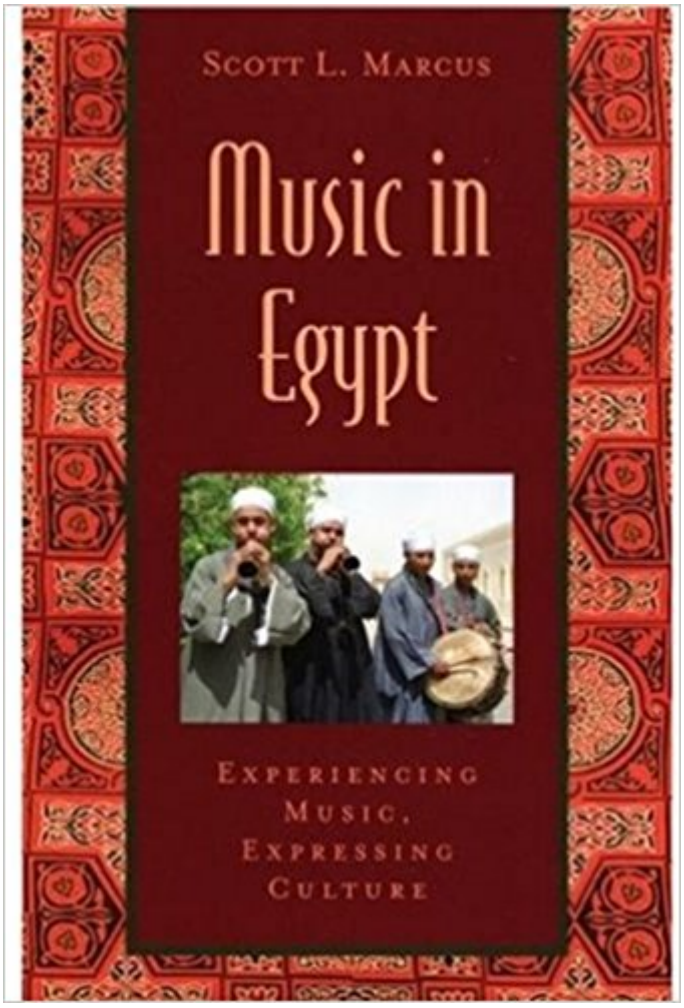
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Music In Egypt: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture Includes CD (Global Music Series)



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Synopsis

Music in Egypt is one of several case-study volumes that can be used along with Thinking Musically, the core book in the Global Music Series. Thinking Musically incorporates music from many diverse cultures and establishes the framework for exploring the practice of music around the world. It sets the stage for an array of case-study volumes, each of which focuses on a single area of the world. Each case study uses the contemporary musical situation as a point of departure, covering historical information and traditions as they relate to the present. Visit www.oup.com/us/globalmusic for a list of case studies in the Global Music Series. The website also includes instructional materials to accompany each study. Music in Egypt provides an overview of the country's rich and dynamic contemporary musical landscape. It offers an in-depth look at specific Egyptian musical traditions, paying special attention to performers and the variety of contexts in which performances occur. The book acknowledges the pervasive presence of Islam by focusing on two Muslim performance genres and by considering the age-old issue of the compatibility of music and Islam. It accomplishes the latter by incorporating the voices of many of the performers featured on the accompanying CD. The volume features a variety of musics that reflect and help to create a number of distinct regional, national, and community identities co-existing in Egypt today. Drawing on more than twenty years of extensive fieldwork, Scott L. Marcus offers detailed ethnographic documentation of seven performance traditions found in Egypt today: the call to prayer; madh, a genre of Sufi religious music; southern Egyptian mizmar folk music; early twentieth-century takht-based art music; music by the acclaimed singer Umm Kulthum, which dominated the mid-twentieth century; wedding procession music; and music by the current superstar pop singer Hakim. The book is packaged with an 80-minute audio CD containing excellent examples of each tradition. All of the examples are based in a single melodic mode--maqam rast--to best engage students with the musical form, structure, and practice of the traditions. Separate educational tracks on the CD introduce maqam rast and the variety of rhythms found in the CD examples. In addition, the CD features a special solo improvisation (taqasim) in maqam rast by UCLA professor Ali Jihad Racy, to help students better understand this particular melodic mode. Enhanced by eyewitness accounts of performances, interviews with performers, listening examples, and song lyrics that enable students to interact with the text, Music in Egypt provides a unique and hands-on introduction to the country's diverse and captivating music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Scott L. Marcus is at University of California, Santa Barbara.

[Actually 4.5 stars] The quality of the various books in the Global Music Series varies, of course, as much as with the author as with the form and location of the music examined. Some such books bog down in the nuances of the particular music; others spend too much time in social and historic matters. Similarly, the accompanying CD may offer examples that are too short or too involved in demonstrating form and not the overall effect. Marcus achieves the best balance of both text and example. His writing is engaging and the historical and sociological development of Egyptian music is clearly presented. The detailed analysis of Umm Kulthum and her musical example is so exciting that one is anxious to actually hear it. The CD itself is so good that it can stand alone; 65 minutes of samples of genre pass by before the didactic section begins, which are scales of maqam and rhythmic examples. A reader/listener can learn much quickly and easily from perusing this book. It can lead to further study and appreciation of Arabic music and thereby the culture as well.

This is an excellent book on Egypt and music of the Middle East, especially on Egypt but also mentions certain things about other Middle Eastern cultures and practices such as Turkey and Morocco. Well written explanations with good supporting examples on key concepts.Highly Recommended!

Used this book for a graduate level music course and it was very informative.

Great book and the music CD was very good.

The book was very interesting and worth reading for knowledge on Egyptian music. However, since I did nto receive the CD I could not give a full assessment.

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