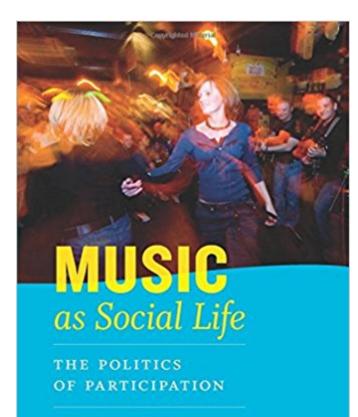
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Music As Social Life: The Politics Of Participation (Chicago Studies In Ethnomusicology)



Thomas Turino



Synopsis

Book Information

Series: Chicago Studies in Ethnomusicology Paperback: 280 pages Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; Pap/Com edition (October 15, 2008) Language: English ISBN-10: 0226816982 ISBN-13: 978-0226816982 Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (7 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #114,238 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnomusicology #76 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Appreciation #236 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

Customer Reviews

Turino explores various facets of music and our relationship with it. I read this book in a Freshman-level Ethno-musicology class and was inspired to continue reading and studying in that field, but the book stands just as easily on its own as a thought-provoking look at the way music can shape the way we think, live, and relate to one another. I was a little hesitant when I was assigned this book for my Music of the World course, but I was really satisfied with it. Turino provides some really great tools for thinking about music's function in the world, why we love it so much, and how it is experienced in different cultures. Some explanations are a little extensive, but Turino makes some really good points that have changed the way I perceive music and the potential music has to affect our daily lives. He also brings all of his small, specific points together and makes broader conclusions and applications about the larger implications of these points, and makes it really relevant to our lives. The book wasnt solely about music; he often strayed away from music and talked about other social processes and change, so don't worry if you're not particularly interested in music. That being said, if you are interested in music, the other pieces are important for everyone to consider, so dont despair. Also, the accompanying CD was great; it was really useful to have musical examples to refer to! It included some really cool tracks from several countries and made it a lot easier to really understand what he was talking about.

This book has clarified my thinking and direction in playing music. If you play popular music, or music you would like to be popular, 'Music as Social Life' by Thomas Turino will do the same for you. It allowed me to understand why I enjoy jamming, dancing teaching and rehearsing more than performing for a nice quiet audience. Yet why, at the same time, I still have an ambivalent desire to make a CD and play for that nice quiet audience. He breaks out of defining music by genres and defines it by function. He notes that we live in a culture that values 'presentational' music over 'participatory' music. Americans especially, literally buy into the idea of music as something that is 'consumed' like any other commodity. So musicians who want feel valued, groom themselves for presentations, live or recorded - instead of seeking participatory musical experiences by, for and of the people around them. I admit the book is tedious in some ways but consciousness raising. I say tedious because it would seem that Prof. Turino attempted to write a book for both the general public and academics. It certainly deserves the respect of both but it veers between what seems like arcane disputation to pedestrian descriptions. Wade through whichever puts you off - there is great wisdom here for pickers, crooners, rockers and other music makers. If you read this book and free yourself from only valuing presentational music, know that there are: jams all over the United States and Canada (Folkjam.org); a website for participatory music making (Community Music Circles); and that most of the world still values being part of the music more than being a mere consumer of it.-JGW, amateur musician

This is a good book.

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