



In the Time of Cannibals in the Time of Cannibals in the Time of Cannibals: The Word Music of South Africas Basotho Migrants the Word Music of South

By David B. Coplan

University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 322 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.4in. x 0.7in.The workers who migrate from Lesotho to the mines and cities of neighboring South Africa have developed a rich genre of sung oral poetry and 8212;word music and 8212;that focuses on the experiences of migrant life. This music provides a culturally reflexive and consciously artistic account of what it is to be a migrant or part of a migrants life. It reveals the relationship between these Basotho workers and the local and South African powers that be, the cannibals who live off of the workers labor. David Coplan presents a moving collection of material that for the first time reveals the expressive genius of these tenacious but disenfranchised people. Coplan discusses every aspect of the Basotho musical literature, taking into account historical conditions, political dynamics, and social forces as well as the styles, artistry, and occasions of performance. He engages the postmodern challenge to decolonize our representation of the ethnographic subject and demonstrates how performance formulates local knowledge and communicates its shared understandings. Complete with transcriptions of full male and female performances, this book develops a theoretical and methodological framework crucial to anyone seeking to understand...



Reviews

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