



Mountainous Sound Spaces: Listening to History and Music in the Uttarakhand Himalayas

By Andrew Alter

Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, India, 2013. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. This book provides a perspective on cultural practice in the Himalayas that engages directly with the sonic world of musical production thus emphasizing how the invisible world of sound is critical to shaping imagined histories creating mythologized heroes and amplifying the stories of mountains and people. Together Garhwal and Kumaun comprise the present-day Indian state of Uttarakhand a state with unique histories associated with Hindu mythology immigrant communities from western India Gorkha conquest British colonialism and modern-day India. The book situates the reader within the history and geography of Garhwal and provides general information on a selection of instruments and sound structures. The reader is introduced to Garhwals aristocratic and colonial past as well as to the regions folklore. The music of bagpipes echoes a colonial past by blending British regimental histories with contemporary folk traditions. Drum and trumpet ensembles echo the martial traditions of Rajputs and Mughals and confirm migratory histories between the mountains and the plains. Flutes echo the supernatural world of sprites and gods and become a potent symbol of dangerous love. The book also uses a variety of theoretical models to...

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