

## Recent Performing Arts - March 2021

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Singing Our Unsung Heroes : (Re)Membering Manu Dibango, Celebrating  
Cameroon Music / Walter Gam Nkwi

Langaa RPCIG, Bamenda, Cameroon 2021

xii, 246p. ; 229x152mm.

9789956551095

\$ 35.00 / null

500 gm.

This book collates thematic reflections on Cameroon music exalting Manu Dibango, one of the first-generation Cameroonian musicians, who bowed to Covid-19 on 24 March 2020. Granted his enormous contribution to Cameroon, African and world music, one would have expected that scholarly books and encyclopaedia of recognition would be written in his honour prior to his demise. However, that was not the case. Like many other musicians in Cameroon, seemingly nothing substantial has been written about Manu Dibango and his music, with the exception, paradoxically, of his autobiography, *Three Kilos of Coffee*. What exists on this towering and humble giant of Cameroonian and African superstardom is scanty and mostly in the form of grey literature. We must learn to immortalise our artists and popular intellectuals beyond their entertainment value and the photo opportunities that we have with them in their lifetime. The inspiration for this book was drawn from the conviction that one of the best ways of honouring and valorising Manu Dibango would be by taking the cue from his music and then collecting essays generally on music, its role and impact in Cameroon, Africa and beyond.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755124>

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Asian Self-Representation at World's Fairs / William Peterson (Series Eds) Jeroen  
de Kloet & Edwin Jurriens

Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2020

324p. ; 156x234x25.4mm.

Includes Index

9789462985636

\$ 128.24 / HB

620 gm.

International expositions or "world's fairs" are the largest and most important stage on which millions routinely gather to directly experience, express, and respond to cultural difference. Rather than looking at Asian representation at the hands of colonizing powers, something already much examined, *Asian Self-Representation at World's Fairs* instead focuses on expressions of an empowered Asian self-representation at world's fairs in the West after the so-called golden age of the exhibition. New modes of representation became possible as the older "exhibitionary order" of earlier fairs gave way to a dominant "performative order," one increasingly preoccupied with generating experience and affect. Using case studies of national representation at selected fairs over the hundred-year period from 1915-2015, this book considers both the politics of representation as well as what happens within the imaginative worlds of Asian country pavilions, where the performative has become the dominant mode for imprinting directly on human bodies.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701209>

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A Grammar of Dance: from the classical Tamil epic Silappathikaram of Ilango Adigal / Anjana Anand

Anjana Anand, Chennai, India 2020

pb,xvii,199p.;27cm.

\$ 0.00 / null

650 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755497>

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Shakespeare and Indian Theatre : The Politics of Performance / Vikram Singh Thakur

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi 2020

hb; xxxv, 245p.; 23cm

Includes Bibliography, Index

9789389351125

\$ 32.50 / HB

600 gm.

This book looks at adaptations, translations and performance of Shakespeare's productions in India from the mid-18th century, when British officers in India staged Shakespeare's plays along with other English playwrights for entertainment, through various Indian adaptations of his plays during the colonial period to post-Independence period. It studies Shakespeare in Bengali and Parsi theatre at length. Other theatre traditions, such as Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi, have been included. The book dwells on the fascinating story of the languages of India that have absorbed Shakespeare's work and have transformed the original educated Indian's Shakespeare into the popular Shakespeare practice of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the unique urban-folkish tradition in postcolonial India.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=754895>

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History of Indian Music: With Particular Reference to Theory and Practice / Bhavanrav A. Pingle

Dev Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi 2021

pb; 122p; 22cm

9789387496422

\$ 7.50 / null

260 gm.

This book briefly explains the broad outlines of Indian music as an art, and to test them by the light of western science. It is a unique book due to its drawing on the writings on the phenomena of Sound by Herbert Spencer, Charles Darwin and a few other authors.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749863>

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Singing Gandhi's India: Music and Sonic Nationalism / Lakshmi Subramanian

Lotus Collection an Imprint of Roli Books Pvt.ltd.,New Delhi2020

hb.;xvii,222p.;19cm.

Includes Notes,References,Index

9788194295969

\$ 13.00 / HB

400 gm.

Here is the first ever and only detailed account of Gandhi and music in India. How politics and music interspersed with each other has been paid scanty, if not any, attention, let alone Gandhi's role in it. Looking at prayer as politics, singing Gandhi's India traces Gandhi's relationship with music and nationalism. Uncovering his writings on music, ashram Bhajan practice, the Vande Mataram debate Subramanian makes a case for a closer scrutiny of Gandhian oeuvre to map sonic politics in twentieth century India.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750520>

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Dancing with the Gods: An Ode to the Mythological Heritage of Classical Dance /  
Monidipa Mukherjee, Sutapa Sengupta

Roli Books, New Delhi 2020

hb.; 96p.; 29cm.

9788194643388

\$ 50.00 / HB

1100 gm.

This book is an ode to the mythological heritage of Bharatanatyam. The visual narrative captures the rich heritage of this temple dance and its original exponents, the Devadasis or 'handmaidens of the deity'. Its repertoire of movements and moods bring alive the fascinating stories of Hindu gods and goddesses and their kaleidoscopic lives. In the following pages, the authors have traced the myths and legends that are cherished in our performing arts, to delight the culture curious reader. And what is interesting is that in these stories, the reader will discover the inter-connectedness of ancient mythologies around the world - sparring Greece, Rome, Mesopotamia, Egypt. Perhaps such discoveries go a long way in validating the role that art plays in connecting civilizations. The book is designed to engage the reader without pedagogy or scholastic strictures, but with a lightness of touch, that entertains while it informs. Because the vision here is to weave information, anecdotes and trivia, together in the spirit of a popular cultural raconteur. Replete with rare photographs curated from the Sohini Moksha World Dance and Communications archives, complemented by a lucid narrative that wraps facts in the language of romance and adventure, this book promises to be a collector's item for those who value the legacy of India's most celebrated dance form.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750533>

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