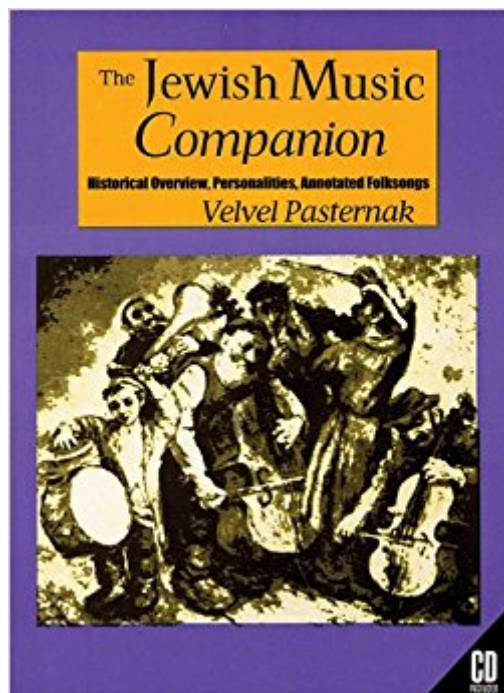




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The Jewish Music Companion: Historical Overview, Personalities, Annotated Folksongs



Synopsis

(Tara Books). Noted musicologist Velvel Pasternak has worked to capture and transmit the musical traditions of world Jewish communities. The Jewish Music Companion is dedicated to those topics that represent the broad panorama of Jewish music. Written in an easily understandable manner, the book is comprised of four sections: An Historical Overview; Jewish Music Artists; Annotated Folksongs; and an Appendix. Transcriptions of music with chords are included, as well as a CD with 14 selections representing the spectrum of Jewish folksongs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The aim of this book (as stated by the author) is to be a companion to Jewish music that is more accessible to the lay reader. I found that Idelson and the like were perfectly accessible already as it were, full of engaging narrative (he even put the musicology in italics). Pasternak has little that is original to contribute on top of that; he was mostly just repeating past scholarship (including its mistakes and some of the more bizarre theories), and adding full-page black and white spreads. The accompanying CD contains a mix of Jewish music from many sources. It wasn't too diverse (a little sparse on the Sfardi side), but was otherwise a nice representation.

Written by ethnomusicologist Velvel Pasternak, *The Jewish Music Companion: Historical Overview, Personalities, Annotated Folksongs* is a fascinating tour of Jewish folksongs, musical traditions, great figures in Jewish music, and much more. Black-and-white photographs and short pieces of

music script illustrate this highly accessible guide to readers of all backgrounds. An accompanying music CD features 14 selections covering a broad variety of Jewish folksongs. Enthusiastically recommended as a reference for music students or simply for the music lovers' pleasure of familiarizing oneself with the syncopations of a venerable tradition.

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