Music in Brazil is one of several case-study volumes that can be used along with Thinking Musically, the core book in the Global Music Series. Thinking Musically incorporates music from many diverse cultures and establishes the framework for exploring the practice of music around the world. It sets the stage for an array of case-study volumes, each of which focuses on a single area of the world. Each case study uses the contemporary musical situation as a point of departure, covering historical information and traditions as they relate to the present. Visit www.oup.com/us/globalmusic for a list of case studies in the Global Music Series. The website also includes instructional materials to accompany each study. As the largest nation in Latin America, Brazil is home to some of the most celebrated music in the world. Music in Brazil covers a wide spectrum of this music, including samba, bossa nova, Tropicália, and MPB (Música Popular Brasileira); regional traditional and popular music; Brazilian rock, rap, and electronica; and such genres as sertaneja (similar to country-and-western music) and brega (sentimental pop). Music in Brazil is organized the themes of unity, diversity, cosmopolitanism, and verbal artistry. It shows how Brazilian music expresses the unity of the country’s culture, discussing, for example, how samba plays a major part in annual Carnaval celebrations and provides a focus for nationalist sentiment. In contrast, the book also demonstrates how music represents the diversity of Brazilian culture, describing how each of Brazil’s regions is home to unique genres of music, and how the audiences for various types of music reflect class distinctions. In addition, author John P. Murphy presents examples of cosmopolitan Brazilian music and emphasizes the connections between music and other aspects of Brazilian culture, especially language and gender. Enhanced by vivid illustrations and guided listening activities, this book is a captivating introduction to the music of Brazil. It is packaged with a 60-minute audio CD containing examples of the music discussed in the book, many of which are taken from the author’s field recordings.

Book Information

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Brazil offers more music and musical styles than old choras and familiar bossa nova, samba, and some Afro-Brazilian ritual and martial forms. Regional folk music, indigenous native music, and a slew of modern adaptations of electronic, rock, fusion, and rap are as plentiful but not much exported. This book, which includes examples of music on an enclosed CD, is a survey for student ethnomusicologists and dedicated world music fans. It is designed as an introduction; references and resources are provided for further study. Therefore, we can read about capoeira; ian ritual music of the Kayapô-Kikrin; the cavalho-marino and the Drama of the Magic Ox (staple folklore of the Northeast); maracatu; baiafalo, and forró (accordion music); southern rural music; Musica capipira; and Recife's modern musical revolutions. Yes, some history of the choro, samba, and bossa nova are included in the beginning pages. Photographs and maps are helpful supplements to musical samples. For filling in some significant gaps, John P. Murphy's book is very worthwhile reading. It helps give us a better understanding of Brazil's cultural history and musical expression.

This is an excellent comprehensive overview of the myriad genres of Brazilian music. Lots of examples and additional discussion through the CD and on-line site.

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