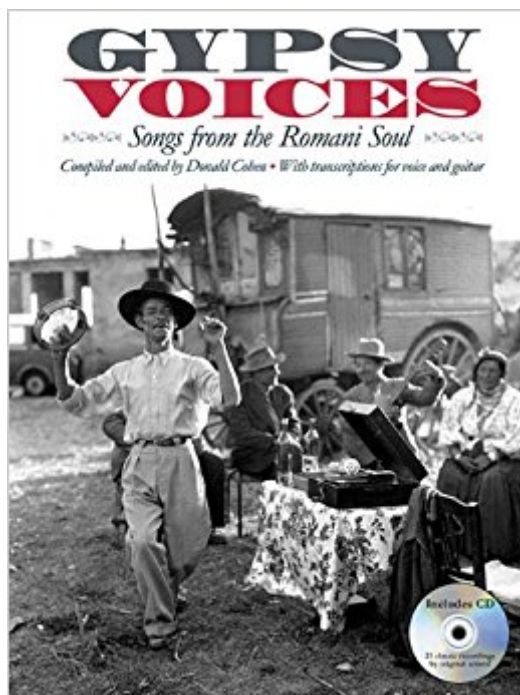


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Gypsy Voices - Songs From The Romani Soul



Synopsis

In recent times there has been a surge of interest in the uniquely beautiful song forms of Roma (or gypsy) music. Its variety richness and influence have won international admiration even as the Romani people themselves have so often been the victims of misunderstanding prejudice and repression. The Romani people emerged in Eastern Europe almost a thousand years ago and can trace their origins to the Indian sub-continent. Their itinerant culture and wide global dispersal have led to a unique richness of musical style which in part due to the rise in interest in world music is now being more widely appreciated. Whether performed in one of several Eastern European tongues or in the Romani's own language the 21 songs featured here reflect the haunting diverse voices of a unique ethnic culture. The songs are presented both in print - with melody lines chord boxes and lyrics in their original language and English - and in classic recordings by the original artists on the accompanying CD.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Music Sales America; Pap/Com edition (February 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1849381658

ISBN-13: 978-1849381659

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I've been taking guitar lessons for over a year, and haven't learned to play any music that I'm into. I wanted to see if I could find something that was more fitting to my tastes - it was pretty difficult weeding through all the general rock guitar books that there are (and there are a LOT). I found this, love the feel of Romani music I'd hear when I was younger and figured I'd give this a shot. It's even better than I expected! Guitar chords are clear and tempo is given. If you can read music (I used to be able to) there's sheet music, lyrics, translation of the lyrics, and a couple pages of back story on

each song. But I think my favorite part of this is the CD! I'd pay for that alone, the music is great, and it definitely gives you a better feel for how the guitar is worked into the music. It's so different from conventional rock. I've already recommended this to two friends who were just as excited as me. GREAT FIND!!!

This book and CD could open up a whole new exciting musical world for you. Authentic Romani (aka "Gypsy") recordings are difficult to find in North America. To find a book with this music clearly laid out, the original words and good English translation is greatly welcomed. Donald Cohen has done a splendid job as he has done with his previous books (Fado Portugues: Songs from the Soul of Portugal and Tango Voices: Songs from the Soul of Buenos Aires and Beyond). The book begins with a clear introduction to the gypsy songs of Central and Eastern Europe. Each song in the book is from a celebrated Romani artist or group. On the accompanying CD, the songs are performed by the original artists. There is a well written article about each song and nice photographs of the performers.

Plump up your cushions, get some cocoa ready and crank up the gramophone. Armchair travellers are in for another delightful trip into exotic lands to the soundtrack of haunting Eastern Gypsy music. In his time-honoured formula, Mr Cohen once more provides us an excellent choice of tracks on CD, accompanied by a fine collection of photos of bygone times, packed with historical explanations, original and translated lyrics and scores. The books in the series are a welcome resource for those seeking information beyond "The Rough Guide to ..." and unable to fathom the bewildering array of languages and stories behind the music.

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