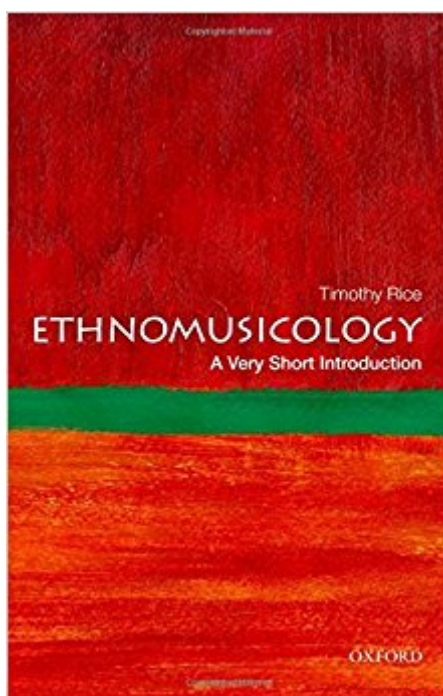




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Ethnomusicology: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

Ethnomusicologists believe that all humans, not just those we call musicians, are musical, and that musicality is one of the essential touchstones of the human experience. This insight raises big questions about the nature of music and the nature of humankind, and ethnomusicologists argue that to properly address these questions, we must study music in all its geographical and historical diversity. In this Very Short Introduction, one of the foremost ethnomusicologists, Timothy Rice, offers a compact and illuminating account of this growing discipline, showing how modern researchers go about studying music from around the world, looking for insights into both music and humanity. The reader discovers that ethnomusicologists today not only examine traditional forms of music—such as Japanese gagaku, Bulgarian folk music, Javanese gamelan, or Native American drumming and singing—but also explore more contemporary musical forms, from rap and reggae to Tex-Mex, Serbian turbofolk, and even the piped-in music at the Mall of America. To investigate these diverse musical forms, Rice shows, ethnomusicologists typically live in a community, participate in and observe and record musical events, interview the musicians, their patrons, and the audience, and learn to sing, play, and dance. It's important to establish rapport with musicians and community members, and obtain the permission of those they will work with closely over the course of many months and years. We see how the researcher analyzes the data to understand how a particular musical tradition works, what is distinctive about it, and how it bears the personal, social, and cultural meanings attributed to it. Rice also discusses how researchers may apply theories from anthropology and other social sciences, to shed further light on the nature of music as a human behavior and cultural practice. About the Series: Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects—from Islam to Sociology, Politics to Classics, Literary Theory to History, and Archaeology to the Bible. Not simply a textbook of definitions, each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative—yet always balanced and complete—discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field. Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question, demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society. Eventually, the series will encompass every major academic discipline, offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library. Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing, whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader, the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Rice's short book delivers a well-structured and comparatively accessible look both into the development of ethnomusicology and into important areas of research, introduces influential studies and researchers, and can well be recommended as a concise alternative to Bruno Nettl's more comprehensive *The Study of Ethnomusicology*."--Die Musikforschung

Timothy Rice is Professor of Ethnomusicology and the Director of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music at the University of California, Los Angeles. His books include *May it Fill Your Soul: Experiencing Bulgarian Music* and *Music in Bulgaria: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture*. A leader in the field, he is a former editor of the journal *Ethnomusicology* and a past president of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Although this is a small book, it really packs in a lot of information, and the size makes it very convenient to carry around. The information that the book provides is presented in a way that is interesting and easy to understand. Although I was required to get this book for a class (it's definitely one of my favorite textbooks), it is something which I could also consider reading for fun. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in ethnomusicology, world music, or just wants to know more about humans and music in general.

I have been a student of ethnomusicology since the early 1970s, and have witnessed major paradigm shifts over the four decades I have been involved in the discipline. Tim Rice does a

wonderful job of presenting a whirlwind tour of a complex and protean field. He reminds us of the sense of social responsibility that pervades our every effort. I am seriously thinking of having it as required reading for music majors.

A grounded and comprehensive explanation for those who want to do research about music. Each chapter shows you open a bibliography .

An amazing overview!

I think this is a better book than Nettl's THE STUDY OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY for serious students of the field. It's more up to date, more diverse, and despite its size it packs in a lot of information. Not a survey of world music, this is about the ways in which scholars study music all over the world from a social and cultural perspective. Not an easy read, but it repays study.

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