



Singing the Classical, Voicing the Modern: The Postcolonial Politics of Music in South India

By Amanda J. Weidman

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Singing the Classical, Voicing the Modern: The Postcolonial Politics of Music in South India, Amanda J. Weidman, While Karnatic music, a form of Indian music based on the melodic and rhythmic principles of raga and tala, is known today as South India's classical music, its status as "classical" is an early twentieth-century construct, one that emerged in the crucible of colonial modernity, nationalist ideology, and South Indian regional politics. As Amanda Weidman demonstrates, in order for Karnatic music to be considered classical, it needed to be modeled on Western classical music, with its system of notation, composers, compositions, conservatories, and concerts, but also to remain distinctively Indian. Weidman argues that these contradictory desires led to the emergence of a particular "politics of voice," in which the voice came to stand for authenticity and Indianness. Combining ethnographic observation derived from her experience as a student and performer of South Indian music and close readings of archival materials, Weidman traces the emergence of this politics of voice through compelling analyses of the relationship between vocal sound and instrumental imitation, conventions of performance and staging, the status of women as performers, debates about language...



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