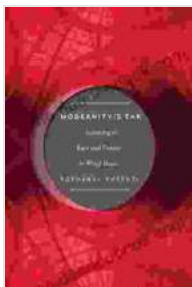


Listening to Race and Gender in World Music Postmillennial Pop

In the postmillennial era, world music has emerged as a vibrant and dynamic genre, encompassing a diverse range of musical styles and traditions from around the globe. This musical landscape has been shaped by globalization, migration, and the proliferation of digital technologies, which have facilitated the circulation and consumption of music across borders and cultures.

Within this globalized music scene, race and gender have emerged as significant factors that influence the production, circulation, and reception of world music. This article explores the complex intersections of race and gender in postmillennial world music pop, examining how these factors shape the representation and experiences of artists and audience members alike.



Modernity's Ear: Listening to Race and Gender in World Music (Postmillennial Pop Book 3) by Roshanak Kheshti

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1568 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 199 pages
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Race and Representation in World Music Pop

Race has played a significant role in shaping the narratives and identities of world music artists. Musicians from marginalized racial backgrounds have often faced challenges in gaining recognition and representation within the mainstream music industry. However, in recent years, there has been a growing movement towards greater diversity and inclusion in world music.

Artists such as Rhiannon Giddens, Angélique Kidjo, and Lila Downs have used their platforms to challenge racial stereotypes and celebrate the richness of their cultural heritage. Their music often explores themes of identity, social justice, and the affirmation of marginalized voices.

For example, Rhiannon Giddens' album "Freedom Highway" (2017) features a diverse range of musical styles, including traditional folk, blues, gospel, and R&B, to explore the complex history of race and slavery in the United States. Similarly, Angélique Kidjo's album "Celia" (2019) pays homage to the legendary Cuban singer Celia Cruz, while celebrating the vibrant musical traditions of Africa and the African diaspora.

Gender and Empowerment in World Music Pop

Gender has also been a defining factor in the evolution of world music pop. Female artists have often faced barriers to entry and recognition in the music industry, but in recent years, there has been a surge of female musicians who are challenging gender norms and using their voices to empower and inspire others.

Artists such as Björk, Rosalía, and Sevdaliza have pushed the boundaries of musical expression, creating innovative and genre-bending sounds that defy traditional gender roles. Their music often explores themes of female empowerment, sexuality, and the search for self-identity.

For example, Björk's album "Vulnicura" (2015) is a deeply personal and introspective exploration of heartbreak and resilience, while Rosalía's album "El Mal Querer" (2018) is a modern reinterpretation of a medieval Spanish love story, exploring themes of female desire and power.

The Interplay of Race and Gender in World Music Pop

The intersections of race and gender in world music pop are complex and multifaceted. Artists who identify as both racial minorities and women often face unique challenges and experiences in the music industry.

For example, female artists of color may face discrimination based on both their race and gender, limiting their access to opportunities and resources. They may also be subjected to stereotypes and expectations that shape how their music is perceived and received by audiences.

However, these same artists can also use their music to challenge these stereotypes and create a more inclusive and representative music landscape. By sharing their stories and experiences, they can give voice to marginalized communities and inspire others to embrace their own identities.

The Role of Digital Technologies

Digital technologies have played a pivotal role in the globalization and democratization of world music pop. The internet and social media

platforms have given artists from all over the world the opportunity to share their music with a global audience, bypassing traditional gatekeepers and industry barriers.

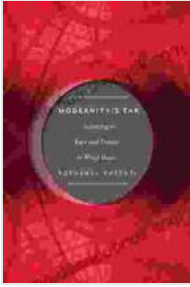
This has led to the emergence of a more diverse and accessible world music landscape, where artists from marginalized backgrounds can find their voices and connect with fans from all walks of life.

For example, platforms such as Bandcamp and SoundCloud have allowed independent artists to distribute their music directly to listeners, giving them greater control over their creative work and financial earnings. Similarly, social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok have enabled artists to build their fan base and engage with audiences in new and innovative ways.

The intersection of race and gender in postmillennial world music pop is a complex and evolving field of study. Artists from marginalized backgrounds are increasingly using their voices to challenge stereotypes, celebrate their cultural heritage, and empower others. Digital technologies are playing a key role in facilitating the globalization and democratization of world music, giving rise to a more diverse and inclusive music landscape.

As the world continues to grapple with issues of race and gender inequality, the music industry has a unique opportunity to promote dialogue, understanding, and social change. By supporting and celebrating artists who represent a diverse range of identities and perspectives, we can create a more equitable and inclusive world for all.

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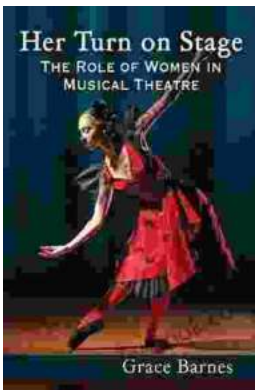


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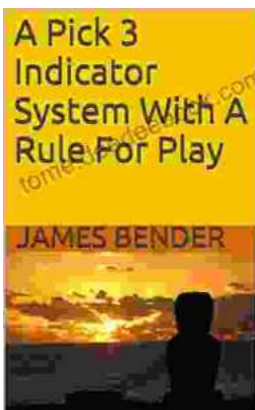
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