



Choral Voices

Ethnographic Imaginations of Sound and Sacrality

Sebanti Chatterjee

"*Choral Voices* is fantastic! In destabilizing notions of culture, colonization, and sound, Sebanti Chatterjee weaves a compelling story of belonging and faith. Through aural participation and multi-sited ethnography readers are transported to the overlooked arenas of identity and indigeneity in contemporary India, with crucial insights for worlds beyond." *Duncan McDuié-Ra, Professor of Urban Sociology, The University of Newcastle, Australia*

"*Choral Voices* is an important addition to the growing body of work that challenges fondly held notions of 'East' and 'West.'" *Naresh Fernandes, author of Taj Mahal Foxtrot: The Story of Bombay's Jazz Age*

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Choral Voices: Ethnographic Imaginations of Sound and Sacrality is about sacred and secular choirs in Goa and Shillong across churches, seminaries, schools, auditoriums, classrooms, reality TV shows, and festivals. Voice and genre emerge as social objects annotated by tradition, nostalgia, and innovation. Piety literally and metaphorically shapes the Christian lifeworld, predominantly those belonging to the Presbyterian and Catholic denominations. Indigeneity structures the political and cultural motifs in the making of the Christian musical traditions. Located at the intersection of Sociology, Anthropology, and Ethnomusicology, the choral voices emplace 'affect' and the visualaural dispatch. Thus, sonic spectrum holds space for indigenous and global musicality.

This ethnographic work will be useful for scholars researching music and sound studies, religious studies, cultural anthropology, and sociology of India.

Sebanti Chatterjee is a sound anthropologist and a senior academic fellow at National Law School India University, Bengaluru. She is a recipient of India Foundation of Arts Research Grant, the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SRA FY 2016), the Indian Council of Social Science Research fellowship, and former editorial member of Serenade Magazine.

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