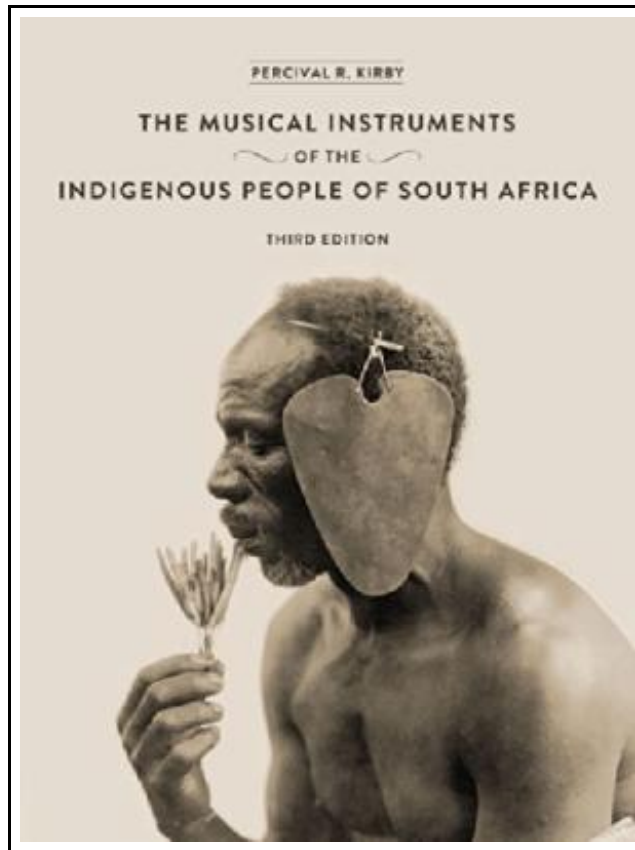


Musical Instruments of the Native People of South Africa



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Reviews

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(Pasquale Larkin I)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wits University Press, South Africa, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 4th edition. 242 x 184 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Percival Kirby was one of the greatest South African musicologists and ethnomusicologists. Born in Scotland in 1887, after completing his studies at the Royal College of Music in London he came out to South Africa as the Music Organiser to the Natal Education Department. In 1920 he moved to Johannesburg as acting Professor of Music at the then University College. He was soon appointed Professor of Music and stayed at the University of the Witwatersrand for 30 years. Kirby was a conductor, timpanist, flautist, composer, teacher, musicologist, scientist and an artist. As well as researching and writing on African music, he wrote the definitive book on the wreck of the Grosvenor. Kirby was concerned about the demise of traditional cultural practices of African people. Whilst at Wits, he was encouraged by his colleagues, people like Raymond Dart and Louis Maingard, to make a comprehensive study of the musical practices of the indigenous peoples of southern Africa. Between 1923 and 1933, supported by several study grants, he travelled thousands of miles, undertook more than nine special expeditions as well as many shorter excursions in his ancient Model T Ford to places like Pietersburg and Potgietersrus, to the area then known as Sekhukhuneland, Transvaal, and to Swaziland and Botswana. He was hosted by local chiefs and taught to play the instruments he encountered. He managed to purchase many of the instruments, and this collection is now known as the Kirby Collection and housed at the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town. The book Musical Instruments of the Native Races of South Africa, first published in 1934, was the culmination of these research trips. It has become the...



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