

Book Review

Music and Healing Rituals of Sri Lanka:

*Their Relevance for Community Music
Therapy and Medical Ethnomusicology*

Kjell Skylstad⁺ Editor in Chief

It is with a special sense of satisfaction that I have the privilege of recommending this book by Dr. K. D. Lasanthi Manaranjanie for our readers. It constitutes an important and most welcomed contribution to the art of healing, opening up for music and the arts as central fields of study within medical ethnomusicology and cross-cultural psychiatry.

In a very special way the present work likewise constitutes an overdue homage to the practitioners of traditional medicine who through long years of devoted service to their communities have shown how artistic forms organize human experiences on a deep level and reorganize them when the holistic perspective on life has been broken.

The explanation given for disease may in this context be seen as descriptions of the world as interpreted by members of a given culture. The traditional practitioners of South Asia have largely contributed to an understanding of the conception among traditional societies of illness as a syndrome that members of a group consider themselves to suffer from and for which their culture provides them with a diagnosis, preventive measures and prescribed cures. Demonstrating that illness cannot be separated from the socio-cultural context, the author gives a valuable

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and informative introduction to traditional healing methodologies in the context of community music therapy.

In the planned development of a center for international music therapy studies in ASEAN, foremost at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. This book will serve as an important sourcebook for promoting a dialogue between Western and Eastern traditional medicine that has just begun.

Dr. K. D. Lasanthi Manaranjanie: *Music and Healing Rituals of Sri Lanka: Their Relevance for Community Music Therapy and Medical Ethnomusicology*. S. Godage & Brothers, Colombo, Sri Lanka , 2013, 168 pp. ISBN 978-955-30-4034-3