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Cultural and Media Studies : Music

Martinelli, Dario

Give Peace a Chant

Popular Music, Politics and Social Protest

- Offers a unique analysis of social protest in popular music
- Focuses on the contextualization of protest songs as well as their lyrical and musical contents
- Challenges the traditional Anglo-American-centrism of musical case-studies

This monograph offers a unique analysis of social protest in popular music. It presents theoretical descriptions, methodological tools, and an approach that encompasses various fields of musicology, cultural studies, semiotics, discourse analysis, media studies, and political and social sciences. The author argues that protest songs should be taken as a musical genre on their own. He points out that the general approach, when discussing these songs, has been so far that of either analyzing the lyrics or the social context. For some reason, the music itself has been often overlooked. This book attempts to fill this gap. Its central thesis is that a complete overview of these repertoires demands a thorough interaction among contextual, lyrical, and musical elements together. To accomplish this, the author develops a novel model that systemizes and investigates musical repertoires. The model is then applied to four case studies, those, too, chosen among topics that are little (or not at all) frequented by scholars.

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