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Central Asian Music

Essays in the History of the Music
of the Peoples of the U. S. S. R.

by Viktor M. Beliaev

Edited and Annotated by Mark Slobin

Translated from the Russian by Mark and Greta Slobin

LC 74-5913. 7" x 10", 368 pages, song texts, bibliography, notes.

ISBN: 0-8195-4083-8 \$35.00

Central Asian Music is the first translation into English of the standard Soviet textbook on the subject, and makes accessible to scholars who read no Russian a major work by the late internationally renowned Russian ethnomusicologist Viktor M. Beliaev.

Carefully editing the original text to eliminate certain redundancies and distracting ideological passages, Mark Slobin presents in this book Beliaev's informative essays on the music cultures of the Kirghiz, Kazakh, Turkmen, Tajik, and Uzbek peoples, the justly famous distillation of a lifetime's research.

These music cultures are considered in great detail, with discussions of genres of folk songs, of folk instruments, of the professional music and musicians, and of the historical development of the music. Especially valuable are the extensive musical transcriptions, some two hundred fifty, carefully assembled and selected by Beliaev, some from rare archival sources accessible only to him, including unpublished field reports of Russian colleagues. Both transliterations and translations of the lyrics follow each song.

Mr. Slobin has carefully annotated the text, explaining and commenting upon Beliaev's data and terminology, and supplementing it with his own research

in the music of Central Asia.

Viktor Mikhailovich Beliaev (1888-1968) was born in Ural'sk and was educated at the Khar'kov Music School and at the Conservatory of Saint Petersburg, where he afterwards taught for a time. His study of ethnic music began during the 1920s and continued until the end of his life. He wrote and edited a number of books and contributed numerous articles to both Russian and foreign professional journals. His two major works are Turkmenskaja muzyka (1928), written with V. A. Uspenskii, and Muzykal'nyi instrumenty uzbekistana (1933).

In 1962 and in 1963 two of the projected three volumes of Ocerki po istorii muzykii narodov SSSR were published in Moscow, this book being an abridged translation of the first. The second, yet untranslated, concerns the music cultures of the Transcaucasians - the Azerbaijanis, the Armenians and the Georgians.

Mark Slobin, an ethnomusicologist and a member of the faculty of Wesleyan University, has long been interested in the music cultures of Central Asia. From 1967 until 1969, with his wife and cotranslator Greta, he travelled in Afghanistan on a fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. He is also the author of the book Music in the Culture of Northern Afghanistan (The University of Arizona Press, 1976).