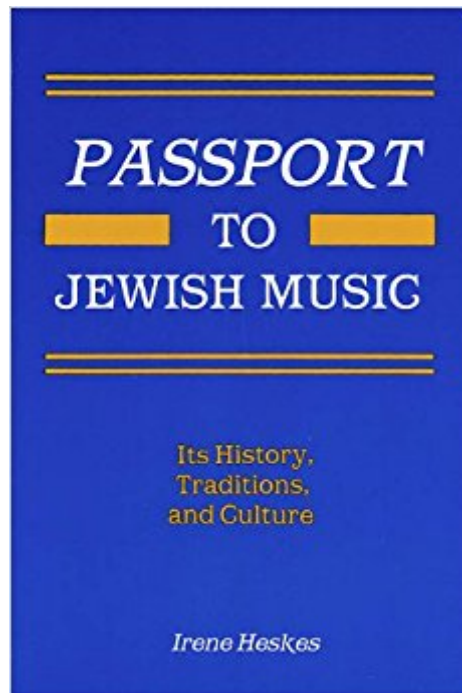




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# Passport To Jewish Music (Ethnic And Immigration History Series)



## Synopsis

(Tara Books). An exhaustive examination of the history, form, and meaning of Jewish musical traditions, with enough general historical background to place the music in solid context. The author has effectively marshalled her vast subject matter with a topical and chronological approach. This book will be appreciated and useful to laymen as well as students, academicians, and professional musicians. 6 x 9 .

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Irene Heskes, the seemingly indefatigable bibliographer and promoter of Jewish music study, provides a sampling of the fruits of "several decades of dedicated study and scholarly labors in the field of Jewish music,"(p.ix). The volume contains a collection of newly compiled essays and preexistent lectures, chapters, journal articles, book reviews, and prefaces, arranged systematically to cover the diverse terrain of Jewish music. .../For the newcomer to Jewish music scholarship(to whom these writings seem mainly directed), the volume is particularly useful for its brief biographies and assessments of those who are fundamental to the field."- Music Reference Services Quarterly..."all of the essays are concise and well written and, highly accessible. A broad spectrum of readers will find this work useful."-Choice"This work fulfills overwhelmingly the promise of its title, being an exhaustive examination of the history, form and meaning of Jewish musical traditions. Passport to Jewish Music takes the reader beyond the potentially pedantic historical delineation to a

wealth of information on "tradition and history, liturgy, and folklore, custom and artistry." For that reason it stands as a potential reference work not only in music, but in ethnography, religion, and biography as well. Highly recommended for academic libraries, for collections of music, religion and Jewish studies."-Notes?...all of the essays are concise and well written and, highly accessible. A broad spectrum of readers will find this work useful.-Choice?This work fulfills overwhelmingly the promise of its title, being an exhaustive examination of the history, form and meaning of Jewish musical traditions. Passport to Jewish Music takes the reader beyond the potentially pedantic historical delineation to a wealth of information on "tradition and history, liturgy, and folklore, custom and artistry." For that reason it stands as a potential reference work not only in music, but in ethnography, religion, and biography as well. Highly recommended for academic libraries, for collections of music, religion and Jewish studies.-Notes?Irene Heskes, the seemingly indefatigable bibliographer and promoter of Jewish music study, provides a sampling of the fruits of "several decades of dedicated study and scholarly labors in the field of Jewish music,"(p.ix). The volume contains a collection of newly compiled essays and preexistent lectures, chapters, journal articles, book reviews, and prefaces, arranged systematically to cover the diverse terrain of Jewish music. .../For the newcomer to Jewish music scholarship(to whom these writings seem mainly directed), the volume is particularly useful for its brief biographies and assessments of those who are fundamental to the field.- Music Reference Services Quarterly..,"all of the essays are concise and well written and, highly accessible. A broad spectrum of readers will find this work useful."-Choice --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

IRENE HESKES is a music historian who specializes in Jewish music. She has written numerous articles and reviews for musicological and general journal publications in America, Europe, and Israel, and has contributed to the Encyclopedia Judaica, as well as to Musical Theater in America (Greenwood, 1984), and Handbook of Holocaust Literature (Greenwood, 1993). Among her books are: Studies in Jewish Music (1971), Jews in Music (1974), Ernest Bloch: Creative Spirit (1976), The Resource Book of Jewish Music (Greenwood, 1985), The Music of Abraham Goldfaden (1990), The Golden Age of Cantors (1991), and Yiddish-American Popular Songs, 1895 to 1950 (1992). --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The title Passport to Jewish Music is, in my opinion, a misnomer. Or perhaps I didn't understand the author's meaning when I ordered the book. As well as historical material, most of which shows how American cantorial music was affected, there is quite a lot that is bibliographic such as sections

devoted to Abraham Z. Idelsohn & Gershon Ephros (cantors and researchers), Leonard Bernstein, Berlin, Gershwin, Ernest Bloch and Offenbach to name a few. The writing is often interesting but the main reason I have not given more stars is because this is the only book I have read on music without a single written note. For example statements such as: "The cultural legacy of Judeo-Spanish folk song has best preserved the history of Iberian-Judaism. That music was created and appreciated during the old "golden" times, where it has been preserved and cherished. Those distinctive melodies and Ladino poetics echo with old Castilian, Aragonese, Catalanian, and Andalusian tunes and folklore. Scholars of Spanish history study them for information about the culture of Old Spain."While there is a reference to a possible source to see the actual music, I would very much have liked to have seen at least a small sample.

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