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978-0-521-87391-8 - The Singing of the New World: Indigenous Voice in the Era of European Contact

Gary Tomlinson

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The Singing of the New World

In *The Singing of the New World* Gary Tomlinson offers histories of ancient music long since silent: the songs of the Indians that Europeans met in the sixteenth century. Merging recent cultural history, early European accounts, archaeological findings, and rare indigenous documents for the Mexica (or Aztecs), the Incas, and the Tupinamba of lowland Brazil, Tomlinson explores the place of singing in these societies. He details the expressive and ritual ends it was expected to fulfill before and after the coming of the *conquistadors*. Musical practices and the cultural ends they served come alive across a spectrum that reaches from the cosmogonic geometry of Inca ritual song through the immanent sacred materiality of Mexican *cantares* to the interconnections of singing, speaking, and eating in Tupinamba cannibalism. A final chapter considers the fears mutually and repeatedly inspired by the expressive powers of American and European song.

GARY TOMLINSON is Annenberg Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of many books and articles on topics ranging from Renaissance music to jazz, including *Monteverdi and the End of the Renaissance*, *Metaphysical Song: An Essay on Opera*, *Music in Renaissance Magic*, and *Music and Historical Critique: Selected Essays*.

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Indigenous Voice in the Era of
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