

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Twenty-First Century Music Practice

edited by

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REIMAGINE TO REVITALISE

*New Approaches to Performance
Practices Across Cultures*

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-82973-1 — Reimagine to Revitalise
Charulatha Mani
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108829731
DOI: 10.1017/9781108903905

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First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-82973-1 Paperback
ISSN 2633-4585 (online)
ISSN 2633-4577 (print)

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DOI: 10.1017/9781108903905
First published online: July 2021

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Abstract: This Element links intercultural musical understanding in the present to the reconsideration of the history of Western music from a global perspective. It examines the compositional style of composer Claudio Monteverdi from the perspective of Karnatik music of South India through the complementary methodological lenses of historical and comparative musicology and features a critical analysis of vocal ornamentation and technique, using theory and artistic research. The outcomes include an innovative approach to studying musics from the past, a decahedral framework of hybridity between early opera and Karnatik music, and practice-based vocal enactments of hybridity, as both process and artistic product of the plurality. The research design harks back to a historical time in early modern Europe, wherein a borderless mobility of musicians from the East paved the way to an unprecedented plurality of musical cultures, and holds deep implications for diversity in and decolonisation of current music performance and education.

Keywords: Karnatik, Monteverdi, culture, Gorgie, voice

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ISBNs: 9781108829731 (PB), 9781108903905 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-4585 (online), 2633-4577 (print)

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