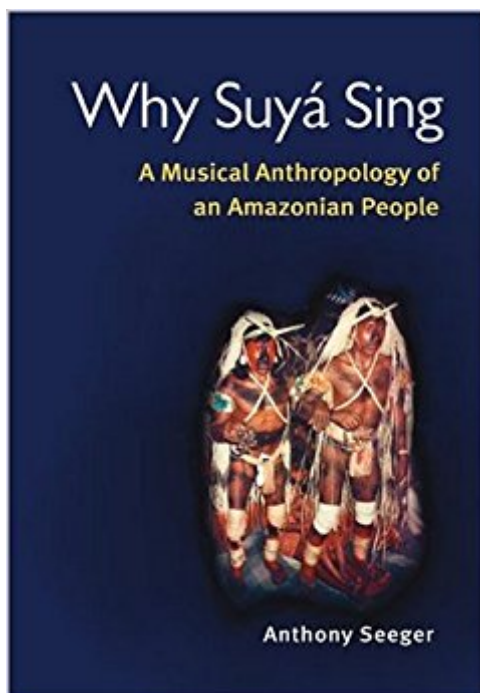


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# Why Suyãi Sing: A Musical Anthropology Of An Ian People



## Synopsis

Winner of the American Musical Society's Kinkeldey Award Like many other South American Indian communities, the Suy Indians of Mato Grosso, Brazil, devote a great deal of time and energy to making music, especially singing. In paperback for the first time, Anthony Seeger's *Why Suy Sing* considers the reasons for the importance of music for the Suy--and by extension for other groups--through an examination of myth telling, speech making, and singing in the initiation ceremony. Based on over twenty-four months of field research and years of musical exchange, Seeger analyzes the different verbal arts and then focuses on details of musical performance. He reveals how Suy singing creates euphoria out of silence, a village community out of a collection of houses, a socialized adult out of a boy, and contributes to the formation of ideas about time, space, and social identity. This new paperback edition features an indispensable CD offering examples of the myth telling, speeches, and singing discussed, as well as a new afterword that describes the continuing use of music by the Suy in their recent conflicts with cattle ranchers and soybean farmers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Anthony Seeger spins out enough of an integrated theoretical and empirical mediation on why Suya sing to set a good portion of traditional ethnomusicology on its ear."

In my study of Brazilian music and its ethnomusicology, I found very few readily available recordings of Ian Amer-Indians and related books, but Anthony Seeger's anthropological sojourn in 1972 to

1973 among the Suyãĩ filled in much of the gap. Indeed, it took me to another and strange world. That his book earned an award is not surprising, for its descriptions are vivid, thorough, and fascinating. He had a family tradition to maintain: his grandfather Charles was a pioneer ethnomusicologist and anthropologist and his musician uncles Pete and Mike need no introduction. For this tribe, music and its performance are not some supplemental aspects of culture; rather, they are integral to its culture, transmitting its myths, constructing and cementing its social relationships, creating its calendar, reflecting its cosmology. The book centers on the Mouse Ceremony, which is a corn harvest rite celebrating the forest mouse that taught the advantages of corn gardens through a song. The book is accompanied by a CD (originally a cassette in the earlier edition) of samples of informal speech, slow speech, myth telling, shout songs, unison songs, and other songs. Photographs, tables, charts, scores, and maps are also provided. This new edition includes an afterword that updates Seeger's perspectives of his initial studies and subsequent follow-up work since 1994 and describes the challenges the Suyãĩ face in modern Brazil. This book is an adventure that will give thought to the various roles of music in our own society.

This is definitely a favorite of mine! A fun, personal narrative of his time among the Suyã people, weaving together exciting stories from the field with large, overriding concepts that translate to studying music in any culture. Also includes a fantastic postlude, describing a few subsequent trips/interactions since this work was initially finished. As for the details...I'll let you read them. Fantastic, though! Seeger makes the distinction in this book between an "anthropology of music" and a "musical anthropology," this book fitting in the latter category. A good read whether interested in/involvement in Music, Ethnomusicology, OR Anthropology! [i.e. "non-musical" anthropologists need not worry and should also read this]. If nothing else, you should all buy this book to listen to his wife's "Anthropologist's Wife" song/lament - fantastic, and ever so true. My wife and I truly connected with that song as we first heard it while on our first extended time overseas. :)

I needed this for a class it came as expected. It also included a disc.

Bought this in 2006 or 2007, so I don't remember the details. I would still recommend it if you want to learn more about how music shapes and maintains different cultures of people.

It's a book what can I say

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