

Listen & Learn – Music made Easy

A Review

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Title: Listen & Learn: Music Made Easy

Publisher: International Library of African Music

ISBN Number: 978-0-620-53702-5

Every now and again a little indigenous gem rises unpretentiously above the South African socio-political-educational landscape and fills me with patriotic pride. *Listen & Learn – Music made Easy* is one of those down-to-earth examples of what we aspire to in our nationalist rhetoric but seldom understand or achieve. In one deceptively simple little book, Bo McConnachie and collaborators have revealed a hidden path to the heart of so much that occupies our country's attention – African pride, education, identity, culture, diversity, passion.

On the professional level, we have an exciting and accessible guide for any teacher working with the CAPS Creative Arts curriculum. Using this book and DVD even the teacher with minimal experience and aptitude in the creative arts can offer stimulating and informative lessons that can intrigue, challenge and inspire young learners. Educationally, the lessons lay a firm foundation of knowledge and understanding, and then progressively build on this. At the same time the content is rooted in the African experience in a way that resonates at a deep intuitive level. The music touches chords that affirm an inherent indigenous identity and sense of unspoken pride in who we are as Africans. The long tradition of musicians and instruments also humble us into realising the rich contributions of those who have gone before us, filling us with gratitude and commitment to preserve this invaluable heritage. And it achieves all this while we are just having an amazing amount of fun with the joy that only music can offer!

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