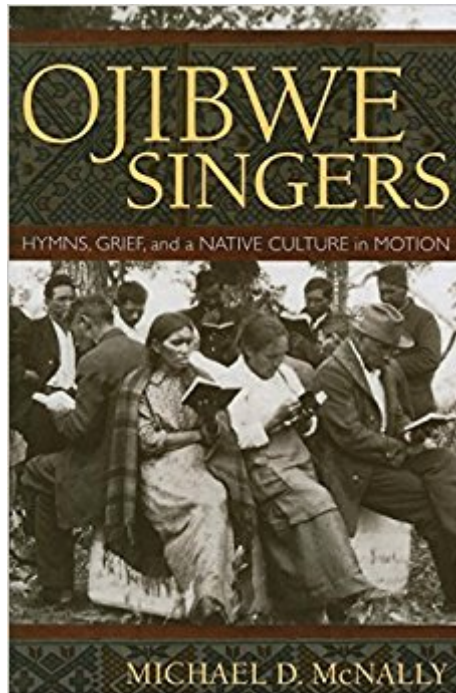




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Ojibwe Singers: Hymns, Grief, And A Native Culture In Motion



Synopsis

In the early nineteenth century, Protestant missionaries evangelized hymns into the Ojibwe language, regarding this music not only as a shared form of worship but also as a tool for rooting out native cultural identity. But for many Minnesota Ojibwe today, the hymns emerged from this history of material and cultural dispossession to become emblematic of their identity as a distinct native people. Author Michael McNally uses hymn singing as a lens to view culture in motion— to consider the broader cultural processes through which Native American peoples have creatively drawn on the resources of ritual to make room for survival, integrity, and a cultural identity within the confines of colonialism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I suppose the appropriation of Christian hymnody by the 19th century Minnesota Ojibweg is not a subject of vital interest to a broad sweep of American consciousness, but the sensitivity and delicate perception with which Michael McNally has opened the subject should not pass without notice. It is no less than fascinating to watch his unwinding the knot of early American religious music as it was absorbed by the Anishinaabe and reinterpreted in such a way that it became a stalwart (albeit quiet) support of the original Ojibwe culture itself. The subject fascinates and the quality of writing engages the reader. A fine piece.

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