

Missing Music

Voices from Where the Dirt Roads End

Ian Brennan

Introduction by Marilena Umuhoza Delli

Foreword by Dame Evelyn Glennie

Missing Music: Voices from Where the Dirt Roads End details Grammy-winning music producer and author Ian Brennan's ongoing quest to provide musical platforms for underrepresented nations and populations around the world.

In a compact and quick-read format, *Missing Music* collects the latest narratives from Brennan's field-recording treks. This edition features a greater emphasis on storytelling and an even greater abundance of photos from his wife, Italian-Rwandan photographer/filmmaker Marilena Umuhoza Delli.

Together, they meet the elderly shamans of the world's most musical language, Taa, a tongue that sadly is dying, with fewer than 2,500 speakers left. The duo traveled the most remote roads of Botswana to find the formally nomadic people now relegated to small desert towns.

In Azerbaijan, Brennan and Delli ascended to the mountainous Iranian border to record centenarians in scattered villages of the Talysh minority, where the world's oldest man reportedly reached the age of 168. The result is the only record ever released to feature the voices of singers over one-hundred years of age.

Among other tales, Brennan also updates the saga of the Sheltered Workshop Singers following COVID, including the tragic deterioration of his sister, Jane.

Arising from the more than forty records that Brennan has produced over the past decade from underrepresented nations such as Comoros, Djibouti, Romania, South Sudan, Suriname, and Cambodia, *Missing Music* serves as the newest suite in the multiverse symphony of the world's most ignored corners—the places where countries expire and the "forgotten" live.

About the Contributors

Ian Brennan is Grammy-winning producer who has produced three Grammy-nominated albums and published seven books while also teaching violence prevention around the world since 1993. Brennan released his first album in 1987 and in the past decade has produced over forty records by international artists from five continents, which have resulted in the first widely released original music albums from nations such as Rwanda, Malawi, Kosovo, South Sudan, Romania, Comoros, and Vietnam. He has worked with artists as diverse as Fugazi, country legend Merle Haggard, Sleater-Kinney, and Green Day.

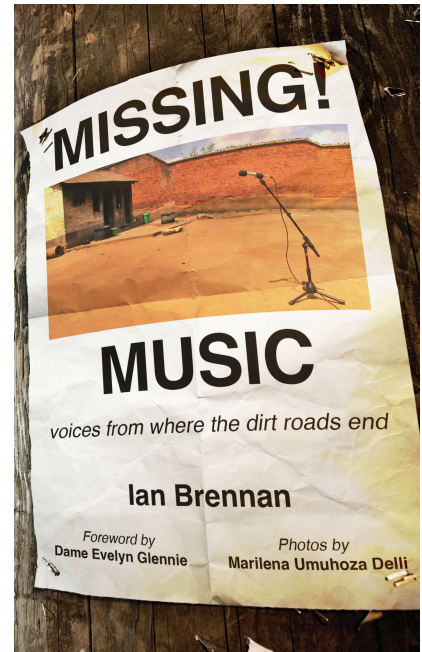
Marilena Umuhoza Delli is an Italian Rwandan photographer, author, and filmmaker whose photographic work has been published around the world by *VICE*, *Libération*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Le Monde*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Smithsonian*, among others, and has photographed the covers of more than three dozen international music albums.

Experimental and classical percussionist **Evelyn Glennie** has released almost fifty album and collaborated with the likes of Mark Knofler, Björk, Fred Frith, Bela Fleck, Bobby McFerrin, and filmmaker Danny Boyle. Evelyn became deaf at age twelve and is the only deaf artist known to have ever won a Grammy. Her stated mission is to try to help "teach the world to listen."

ACCOLADES

"Music is one of the best doors into a culture and Ian Brennan has opened them in more far-off corners than anyone. He writes of the people he meets and their music with vivid directness and great generosity of spirit."

—Joe Boyd, Grammy-nominated producer and author of *White Bicycles*



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