1. Record Nr. UNINA9910452435103321

Titolo Women's songs from West Africa / / edited by Thomas A. Hale and

Aissata G. Sidikou

Pubbl/distr/stampa Bloomington:,: Indiana University Press,, [2014]

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ISBN 0-253-01021-7

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (352 p.)

Altri autori (Persone) HaleThomas A <1942-> (Thomas Albert)

SidikouAissata G

Disciplina 782.42082/0966

Soggetti Music - Africa, West - History and criticism

Women musicians - Africa, West

West Africans - Music Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

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Exploring the origins, organization, subject matter, and performance contexts of singers and singing, Women's Songs from West Africa expands our understanding of the world of women in West Africa and their complex and subtle roles as verbal artists. Covering Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and beyond, the essays attest to the importance of women's contributions to the most widespread form of verbal art in Africa.