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work; 4 Fancy and function; Wishful singing; All manner of fancies; All manner of functions; Waulking; Shantying; Quarrying, rowing and fishing; Conclusion; 5 Community Knitted together in song Hop-picking songs: the communal creation of a working holiday; Waulking songs, shanties and gendered community; Fisher lassies: independent and distinct community through song; Conclusion; 6 Voice; The myth of the happy singing labourers; Singing at work and the dialectic of grounded happiness; The sound of work in song; Expressing a voice via the lyrics of songs; Hop-picking and berry-picking; Shantying; Limiting direct voice and power in the process of singing; Disciplined singing; Conclusion; Part II Industrialisation and music at work; 7 Silenced The general decline of self-produced music Policies of prohibition; The roar of industrial noise; Moral discipline; Worker responses to industrial soundscapes; Conclusion; 8 Fragments of singing in the factory; Employer policies: paternalism and the singing worker; Fancy and function in the alienating factory; Community; Spinning and singing; The camaraderie of singing in munitions factories; Isolated singing; Voice; Voice and song in spinning mills; Voice and song in munitions factories; Conclusion; Part III Broadcast music in the workplace 9 Instrumental music? The rise of broadcast music in factories Instrumental music?; The prelude; Music While You Work; The role of the state as employer; The voice in the loudspeaker; Evolution beyond the war years; Conclusion; 10 Music and meaning on the factory floor; Hearing popular music at work?; Survival; Community through music; Voice on the shopfloor; Conclusion: music and survival at a critical distance; Conclusion; 11 Learning from the history of music at work; Music at work and our understanding of music; Traditional popular music; Contemporary popular music Music at work and our understanding of work

Sommario/riassunto

Whether for weavers at the handloom, labourers at the plough or factory workers on the assembly line, music has often been a key texture in people's working lives. This book is the first to explore the rich history of music at work in Britain and charts the journey from the singing cultures of pre-industrial occupations, to the impact and uses of the factory radio, via the silencing effect of industrialisation. The first part of the book discusses how widespread cultures of singing at work were in pre-industrial manual occupations. The second and third parts of the book show how musical silence reigned with industrialisation, until the carefully controlled introduction of Music while You Work in the 1940s. Continuing the analysis to the present day, Rhythms of Labour explains how workers have clung to and reclaimed popular music on the radio in desperate and creative ways.
