

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787806103321
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Titolo	The voice in the drum : music, language, and emotion in Islamicate South Asia // Richard K. Wolf
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Urbana : , : University of Illinois Press, , [2014] ©2014
ISBN	0-252-09650-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (409 p.)
Disciplina	780.88/2970954
Soggetti	Islamic music - South Asia - History and criticism
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.
Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Title Page""; ""Copyright Page""; ""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""An Essential Note from the Author""; ""Note from the Editor""; ""Note on Transcription and Musical Symbols""; ""Map""; ""Chapter 1. Drumming, Language, and the Voice in South Asia""; ""Chapter 2. Emotional Agents""; ""Chapter 3. Tone and Stroke""; ""Chapter 4. Beyond the Matra""; ""Chapter 5. Muharram in Multan""; ""Chapter 6. Shah Jamal""; ""Chapter 7. Madho Lal""; ""Chapter 8. The Manifest and the Hidden""; ""Chapter 9. The Voice in the Drum""; ""Chapter 10. A Silver Box""; ""Appendix A Dhima and Matam"" ""Appendix B Summary of Commemorative Themes"" ""Appendix C Cast of Characters by Chapter""; ""Notes""; ""Glossary""; ""References""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	Based on extensive research in India and Pakistan, this study examines the ways drumming and voices interconnect over vast areas of South Asia and considers what it means for instruments to be voice-like and carry textual messages in particular contexts. Richard K. Wolf employs a hybrid, novelistic form of presentation in which the fictional protagonist Muharram Ali, a man obsessed with finding music he believes will dissolve religious and political barriers, interacts with Wolf's field consultants, to communicate ethnographic and historical realities that transcend the local details of any one person's life.