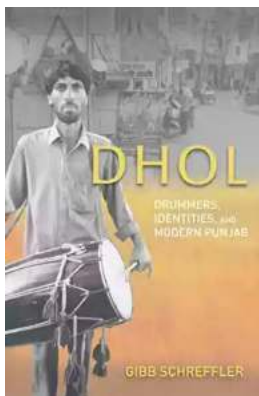


# Dhol Drummers: Unveiling Their Identities in Modern Punjab

Punjab, a vibrant and culturally rich state in India, has long been known for its energetic and lively folk music. One of the integral components of Punjabi music is the dhol, a traditional drum that holds significant historical and cultural value. Dhol drummers, often overlooked in the larger narrative, have a unique identity that reflects the evolving nature of Punjab's society.

The dhol, a two-sided barrel drum, is typically played with a wooden stick or a cane. It produces a resounding beat that forms the foundation of Punjabi music. Dhol drummers, skilled in their craft, have the ability to captivate audiences with their rhythmic prowess and infectious enthusiasm. However, beyond their musical talents, dhol drummers hold a symbolic status within the Punjabi community.

Historically, dhol drummers were associated with the lower strata of society. They were often marginalized and faced discrimination due to their lower caste status. Despite these challenges, dhol drummers persevered and continued to practice their art, firmly establishing themselves as an integral part of Punjabi culture.



## Dhol: Drummers, Identities, and Modern Punjab

by Joe Moscheo (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

|                      |             |
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| Language             | : English   |
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| Screen Reader        | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled   |
| Print length         | : 401 pages |



In modern Punjab, dhol drummers are experiencing a shift in their identity. With the influence of globalization and the rapid evolution of Punjabi music, dhol drummers have found new avenues of expression and recognition. They are no longer confined to traditional folk performances but have also become an essential element in Punjabi pop music, Bollywood soundtracks, and even international collaborations.

The rise of Bollywood and the Punjabi music industry has played a significant role in changing the perception of dhol drummers. Their unique beats have become synonymous with celebration and are often used in wedding songs and high-energy dance numbers. Dhol drummers have embraced this newfound popularity and have transformed their art to cater to contemporary tastes while maintaining their cultural roots.

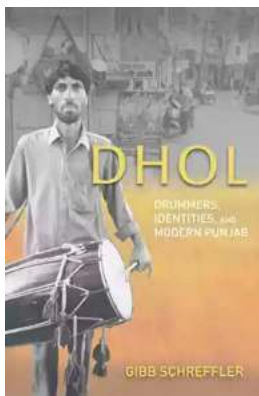
Additionally, dhol drummers have gained recognition on a global scale. They have been featured in international music festivals, cultural events, and collaborations with artists from different parts of the world. This exposure has not only elevated their status but has also opened doors for them to showcase their talent and connect with diverse audiences.

In terms of identity, dhol drummers have also witnessed changes within their own community. The younger generation is enthusiastically embracing the art form and breaking traditional barriers. They are experimenting with fusion music, combining the traditional beats of the dhol with other genres such as hip-hop, rap, and electronic music. This fusion not only attracts a wider audience but also allows for cultural exchange and innovation.

Moreover, dhol drummers are now regarded as cultural ambassadors, representing Punjab's musical heritage globally. They have become symbols of pride and identity for the Punjabi community, breaking free from the historical prejudices and inequalities they once faced. Their resilience and dedication have paved the way for social mobility and equality within the realm of Punjabi music.

The journey of dhol drummers in Punjab is a testament to the dynamic nature of cultural identities. It reflects the ability of communities to adapt, evolve, and redefine their traditions in the face of societal changes. As Punjab continues to thrive and embrace modernity, the dhol drummers play an essential role in preserving the rich cultural heritage while contributing to the diverse musical landscape of the region.

, the identities of dhol drummers in modern Punjab have evolved significantly. From being marginalized members of lower castes, they have emerged as symbols of cultural pride and global ambassadors of Punjabi music. Their journey showcases the resilience, passion, and adaptability of artists who remain rooted in tradition while embracing innovation. The future of dhol drummers in Punjab looks promising, as they continue to shape and redefine their identities while contributing to the vibrant tapestry of the region's cultural heritage.



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An icon of global Punjabi culture, the dhol drum inspires an unbridled love for the instrument far beyond its application to regional vernacular music. Yet the identities of dhol players within their local communities and the broadly conceived Punjabi nation remain obscure.

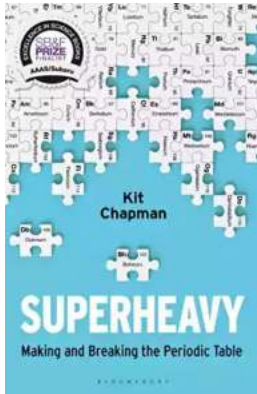
Gibb Schreffler draws on two decades of research to investigate dhol's place among the cultural formations within Punjabi communities. Analyzing the identities of musicians, Schreffler illuminates concepts of musical performance, looks at how these concepts help create or articulate Punjabi social structure, and explores identity construction at the intersections of ethnicity, class, and nationality in Punjab and the diaspora. As he shows, understanding the identities of dhol players is an ethical necessity that acknowledges their place in Punjabi cultural history and helps to repair their representation.

An engaging and rich ethnography, Dhol reveals a beloved instrumental form and the musical and social practices of its overlooked performers.



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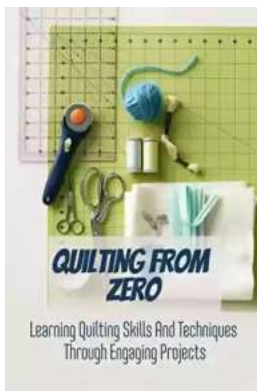
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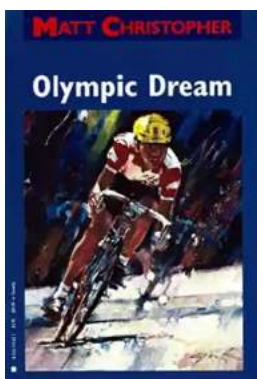
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