

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD - 1st NOVEMBER 2008

BURMESE

BUDDHIST MONKS

Music Of Myanmar

(Celestial Harmonies)

While other world-music aficionados have moved towards fusions of ethnic and Western styles, German producer and record company owner Eckart Rahn (whose early labels specialised in electronic and avant-garde music) has gone back to ethnic purity.

Some years ago he released the staggering, 15-volume *Music Of Islam* and here is an extraordinary two-CD



collection of Buddhist chants from Burma.

The discs are accompanied by a 90-page booklet that has commentary and

translations of the chants, which have exotic titles such as *The Discourse On The Seven Factors Of Enlightenment*. It is an extraordinary recording of a culture largely inaccessible to outsiders.

Most of the recording is of monks chanting but the album includes a beautiful song on Buddhist doctrine titled *Dhamma Gita* by U Pyone Cho.

A record such as this is strictly for musical purists.
Bruce Elder