



The Listening Composer (Paperback)

By George Perle

University of California Press, United States, 1996. Paperback. Condition: New. Revised ed..

Language: English . Brand New Book. George Perle takes us into the composer s workshop as he reevaluates what we call twentieth-century music - a term used to refer to new or modern or contemporary music that represents a radical break from the tonal tradition, or common practice , of the preceding three centuries. He proposes that this music, in the course of breaking with the tonal tradition, presents coherent and definable elements of a new tradition. In spite of the disparity in their styles, idioms, and compositional methods, he argues, what unites Scriabin, Stravinsky, Bartok, and the Viennese circle (Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern) is more important than what separates them. If we are to understand the connections among these mainstream composers, we also have to understand their connections with the past. Through an extraordinarily comprehensive analysis of a single piece by Varese, Density 21.5 for unaccompanied flute, Perle shows how these composers refer not only to their contemporaries but also to Wagner, Debussy, and Beethoven. Perle isolates the years 1909-10 as the moment of revolutionary transformation in the foundational premises of our musical language. He asks: What...



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Reviews

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