The book was found

How Music Works: The Science And Psychology Of Beautiful Sounds, From Beethoven To The Beatles And Beyond





Synopsis

What makes a musical note different from any other sound? How can you tell if you have perfect pitch? Why do 10 violins sound only twice as loud as one? Do your Bob Dylan albums sound better on CD or vinyl? John Powell, a scientist and musician, answers these questions and many more in HOW MUSIC WORKS, an intriguing and original guide to acoustics. In a clear, accessible, and engaging voice, Powell fascinates the reader with his delightful descriptions of the science and psychology lurking beneath the surface of music. With lively discussions of the secrets behind harmony, timbre, keys, chords, loudness, musical composition, and more, HOW MUSIC WORKS will be treasured by music lovers everywhere. The book also includes a CD of examples and exercises from the book.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages Publisher: Little, Brown and Company; Pap/Com Re edition (December 2, 2011) Language: English ISBN-10: 0316098310 ISBN-13: 978-0316098311 Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (86 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #248,018 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Beethoven #124 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Acoustics & Sound #388 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Reference

Customer Reviews

I have always had an aptitude for and interest in science. I am a medical student and am interested in the human brain and how we as humans see the world and interact with our environment.One thing that I love perhaps as much as science is music. I find it possibly the single best cure for emotional disturbance, especially stress of any kind and have often wondered why this is?I have noticed that music can have a profound affect on mood and state of mind. Sometimes it brings about nostalgia attached to a memory that I doubt I would remember without the auditory cue. Sometimes it makes me so happy that I walk down the street with my headphones in my ears grinning at passers by, and sometimes it simply brings tears to my eyes. It is certainly a very emotive tool and science in its own right.When I discovered the book `How Music Works' by John Powell I thought to myself `this might be worth a read!' I certainly was not wrong. This book does what it says on the tin really. The author uses a scientific approach to explain exactly how music works, without isolating the lay person. He uses examples and analogies we can all relate to, to explain concepts in a logical and understandable manner without compromising on detail and depth of explanation, which in my humble opinion is quite a skill. The style of writing is witty and light hearted so this book makes for an entertaining as well as interesting and informative read. Several times I found myself subject to a few funny looks on the tube as I laughed out loud whilst reading the book on my daily commute. I also found my self thinking `ok so now I get it!

Disclaimer: I have no musical talent, either real or imagined. I have read books on music theory, and I always found them lacking. WHY do we have an octave (octave=eight) that contains twelve tones? WHY are there whole steps between all notes except for B & C and E & F? WHY do we pick out, seemingly arbitrarily, seven of the twelve tones in an octave and call them a scale? 'How Music Works' answers those questions, even though I never expected it to. For the first time, music theory begins to make sense! It is not enough for me to know something IS, I want to know WHY. Now I do. If that were the sole contents of the book, it would be worth what I paid for it at the local bookstore. But `How Music Works' contains much, much more. `How Music Works' provides a scientific definition of what music is, in very understandable terms. The author describes how a string produces sound, and how we generally are listening to furniture with most stringed instruments. He explains why different instruments produce different voices at the same tone and how various instruments physically produce their sounds. This is why I purchased the book. If this were the sole content of the book, it would be worth the retail price I paid for it. But 'How Music Works' contains much, much more. 'How Music Works' also delves into the tricky phenomenon of how we humans perceive sound, both from the standpoint of the sound itself, and of our hearing system. Here is also where the science of Western music is so elegantly described in easy to understand terms. Ever wonder WHY if a major scale and a natural minor scale (e.g. C Major and A minor) contain exactly the same notes, WHY they sound so different? The answer is in `How Music Works.

Download to continue reading...

How Music Works: The Science and Psychology of Beautiful Sounds, from Beethoven to the Beatles and Beyond THE BEATLES ALBUM COVERS 1963 - 1970: A Collector's Guide To Over 55 Album Covers Produced While The Beatles Were Still A Group (Collector's Guide To Beatles Album Covers) Psychology: Social Psychology: 69 Psychology Techniques to Influence and Control

People with Communication Tricks, NLP, Hypnosis and more... (Psychology, ... NLP, Social Anxiety, Cognitive Psychology) Stop, Drop, and Flop in the Slop: A Short Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Blends (Sounds Like Reading) The Beatles' London: A Guide to 467 Beatles Sites in and Around London A Beautiful Wedding: A Beautiful Disaster Novella (Beautiful Disaster Series) Beethoven Masterpieces for Solo Piano: 25 Works (Dover Music for Piano) Beethoven -"Pathetique" Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor (Beethoven Piano Sonatas) (Volume 8) Classical Music: The Era of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven (The Norton Introduction to Music History) Beethoven - String Quartets, Op. 18: No. 1 in F Major & No. 4 in C Minor: Music Minus One Violin (Music Minus One (Numbered)) Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music Reclaiming Late-Romantic Music: Singing Devils and Distant Sounds (Ernest Bloch Lectures) Muscle Sounds In Physiology, Sports Science, And Clinical Investigation: Applications And History Of Mechanomyography FREAK OUT, U.S.A. THE CLASSIC MUSIC MAGAZINE FROM 1967: GET THE SCOOP ON FREAKOUT WITH THE MONKEES, THE BEATLES, THE DOORS, JEFFERSON AIRPLANE, FRANK ZAPPA, THE MAMAS AND THE PAPAS, THE SUPREMES Here, There and Everywhere: My Life Recording the Music of the Beatles Music to the Film "Alone" Op. 26: New Collected Works of Dmitri Shostakovich - Volume 123 (Dmitri Shostakovich New Collected Works, Volume 123) Beethoven: Favorite Piano Works - Schirmer'S Library Of Musical Classics Lb2071 Beethoven: Introduction to His Piano Works (Alfred Masterwork Edition) Music that works: Contributions of biology, neurophysiology, psychology, sociology, medicine and musicology The Beethoven Factor: The New Positive Psychology of Hardiness, Happiness, Healing, and Hope <u>Dmca</u>