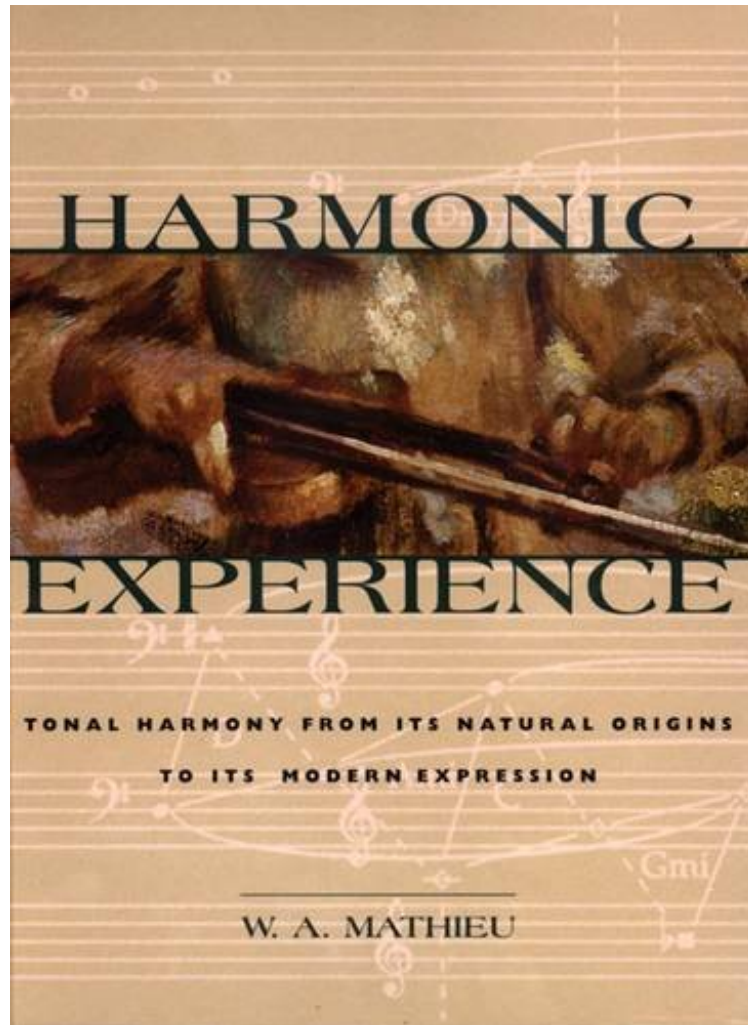


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Harmonic Experience: Tonal Harmony from Its Natural Origins to Its Modern Expression

W. A. Mathieu

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harmonic Experience: Tonal Harmony from Its Natural Origins to Its Modern Expression:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Rasmus Nielsen Super, I simply hear different now, wonderful...6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The best harmony book I've ever read By jawdfs While i can't say i've read everything on the subject, far from it, i have read Schenker's and Hindemith's books on harmony, Forte's book and a number of others commonly found in University libraries. (My BA is in Music Theory

Composition - fyi) I've found that many of these authors are genuinely interesting and insightful (Schenker in particular, much to my own surprise) however none come close to Mathieu's book in terms of illuminating the essence of the modal/tonal universe for me. Beginning with the actual physics of sound, Mathieu's book builds a theoretical framework like no other, with fewer assumptions and on a more solid footing than anyone else i am aware of. More excitingly, he has helped me to expand greatly the harmonic universe within my own compositions. As one who has been involved all his life in the field of music (40+ years), i can say that this is the most important book i know for anyone interested in music theory, improvisation and composition. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Heavy Duty Study for Sure By Kindle Customer I did not expect such a heavy book! 8.5 x 11 in. and 2lbs.! A lifetime study; but thus far I have gotten a couple of very good ideas I am working on: rhythmic rather than harmonic, strangely. I'm trying to wrap my head around the numerical and verbal concepts of stuff I know and practice to some extent in my music. Whether I can stick with it is another matter. But as little as I've gotten into this book, I do feel that it will be helpful, and once I've worked through it a bit, it will be a reference for as long as I'm involved in music.

An exploration of musical harmony from its ancient fundamentals to its most complex modern progressions, addressing how and why it resonates emotionally and spiritually in the individual. W. A. Mathieu, an accomplished author and recording artist, presents a way of learning music that reconnects modern-day musicians with the source from which music was originally generated. As the author states, "The rules of music--including counterpoint and harmony--were not formed in our brains but in the resonance chambers of our bodies." His theory of music reconciles the ancient harmonic system of just intonation with the modern system of twelve-tone temperament. Saying that the way we think music is far from the way we do music, Mathieu explains why certain combinations of sounds are experienced by the listener as harmonious. His prose often resembles the rhythms and cadences of music itself, and his many musical examples allow readers to discover their own musical responses.

"This volume offers experiential keys to help unlock the mystery of how music works its deep affect upon us. Harmonic Experience extends any reader's understanding of music and is a user-friendly, elegant and graceful work. It is a technical treatise about the inner workings of music." (Daniel Atesh Sonneborn, Smithsonian Institution) "Mathieu's books are worth reading for anyone in any field of music--jazz, classical, gospel, or any other. He's found the words to tell the power of music." (Pete Seeger, folksinger) "This book goes beyond what most textbooks offer, and its highly original pedagogy deserves the attention of every teacher of harmony. Above all, this is a book for anyone who would like to acquire harmony as a lived experience rather than as mere memorization of unyielding rules on paper." (Chien-Chang Yang, Quarterly Journal of the MLA) "Mathieu is consistently proving himself to be one of the best in musical theory." (John Coltrane in Downbeat Magazine) About the Author W. A. Mathieu is the author of *The Listening Book* and *The Musical Life*. His compositions and solo piano music have been extensively recorded. He lives in Sebastopol, California, where he writes, composes, and teaches.