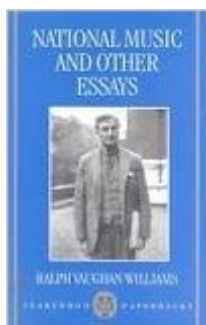


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National Music And Other Essays (Clarendon Paperbacks)



Synopsis

Ralph Vaughan Williams held strong views on many musical subjects. He never hesitated to express his views in plain, vigorous prose, and he became well-known for his essays, which combine typical common sense with a true composer's sensitivity. This collection contains all his writings that he thought worth preserving in book form. Topics include nationalism in music, the evolution of folk-song, and the origins of music, as well individual composers like Beethoven, Gustav Holst, Bach, Sibelius, Arnold Bax, and Elgar. Also included are more general reflections on the making of music, its purpose and effects, and the social foundations of music.

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make music? Notation ; Inspiration ; Craft ; Instruments -- When do we make music? Ceremony ; Dance ; Words and music ; Social background -- What are the social foundations of music? -- The folk-song movement -- Epilogue : Making your own music. Ralph Vaughan Williams held strong views on many musical subjects. He never hesitated to express his views in plain, vigorous prose, and he became well-known for his essays, which combine typical common sense with a true composer's sensitivity. This collection contains all his writings that he thought worth preserving in book form. Topics include nationalism in music, the evolution of folk-song, and the origins of music, as well individual composers like Beethoven, Gustav Holst, Bach, Sibelius, Arnold Bax, and Elgar. Also included are more general reflections on the making of music, its purpose and effects, and the social foundations of music.

This volume, which is a reprint of Michael Kennedy's edition of the writings of the British composer, is a delight. Vaughan Williams was outspoken, downright, sometimes right, sometimes wrong, but sometimes prophetic. In 1934, Vaughan Williams saw and deplored the commercialism that has grown like a malign vine upon the world of classical music. This book is recommended for anyone who loves Vaughan Williams' music or, for that matter, British music during the last century.

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