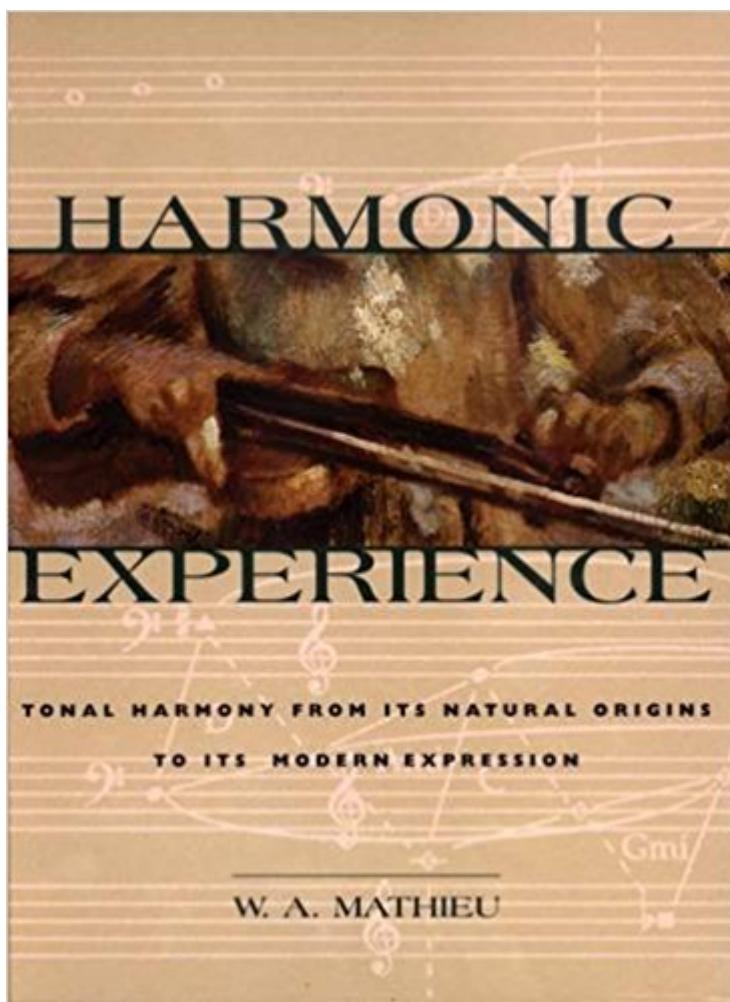


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# Harmonic Experience: Tonal Harmony From Its Natural Origins To Its Modern Expression



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"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)

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.

I purchased this book from , upon the suggestion of the author, after lamenting that I had not seen it available in local bookstores. This book offers food for the soul - as it blends the technical with the experiential in its lucid exposition of the universal art of music. Here, analogy and humor balance with science to evoke a deeper cognizance of the varied facets of this multi-cultural form of human experience. Here too, the universal power of the 'Divine Art' of Music is well-expressed, so that it may be passed on - in the tradition of the 'bards' of every age. Any musical novice, journeyman, or master would benefit from the experience that this book offers. Many thanks to Maestro Mathieu.

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.

excellent

Brilliant in all regards. Do yourself a favour and buy it.

Probably the best book I've read on "music theory."

Mathieu really helps you get into your bones what all the tuning systems are about and, in process, I really got some deep insights into a variety of scales.

Super, I simply hear different now, wonderfull...

Having just discovered this book, i wish i would have known of it when it was first published in 1997. While i've since done my own searching, exploring and mapping of the landscape of music and coming to 'discover on my own' and use many of the same outlooks, devices, techniques and views this work so beautifully and comprehensively presents, it would have saved me a tremendous amount of time. This is the single best book i know towards enlightening anyone aspiring to understand, orient, unify with and create within the world of sounds we experience as music. Highly recommended.

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