



Ways of Listening: An Ecological Approach to the Perception of Musical Meaning

By Eric Clarke

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.7in. In recent years, many psychologists and cognitive scientists have published their views on the psychology of music. Unfortunately, this scientific literature has remained inaccessible to musicologists and musicians, and has neglected their insights on the subject. In *Ways of Listening*, musicologist Eric Clarke explores musical meaning, music's critical function in human lives, and the relationship between listening and musical material. Clarke outlines an ecological approach to understanding the perception of music. The way we hear and understand music is not simply a function of our brain structure or of the musical codes given to us by culture, Clarke argues. Instead, cognitive, psychoacoustical, and semiotic issues must be considered within the physical and social contexts of listening. In essence, Clarke adapts John Gibson's influential ecological theory of perception to the complex process of perceiving music. In addition to making a theoretical argument, the author offers a number of case studies to illustrate his concept. For example, he analyzes the experience of listening to Jimi Hendrix's performance of the Star Spangled Banner at Woodstock in 1969. Clarke examines how Hendrix's choice of instrument and venue, use of...



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