

Jacques
Barzun

Critical
Questions



On Music and Letters
Culture and Biography
1940-1980

Selected, Edited, and
Introduced by
Bea Friedland

Critical Questions On Music And Letters Culture And Biography 1940 1980

Erich Welling



Critical Questions On Music And Letters Culture And Biography 1940 1980:

Critical Questions Jacques Barzun, 1984-04 This collection of writings allows the reader a rare opportunity to see Barzun's lively engaging rich and original mind at work on several strategic areas of cultural inquiry music and the musical life esthetics biography criticism and social commentary Barzun makes use of a variety of contexts as a forum for evidence and opinion including essays program notes letters and reviews And he approaches a wide variety of particular and general questions What is it like to sit in on a recording session with a great orchestra What is the role of the piano in Western culture What is art in relation to objective reality and to the perceiving mind Can one translate music into words What is cultural history For anyone unfamiliar with Barzun's work *Critical Questions* will serve as a valuable introduction to one of the most important cultural historians of our time Others will be glad to have these pieces most of them no longer easily available brought together in a single volume Uniformly insightful provocative and a pleasure to read they show the consistency of Barzun's thought even as they exhibit diversity

Musical Biography Jolanta T. Pekacz, 2017-07-05 Musical biography has rarely been an object of theoretical and methodological reflection Our present day perception of the lives of prominent composers and performers of the past has been largely formed by cultural and political assumptions of nineteenth century biographers and their twentieth century followers While older biographies are being scrutinized for veracity and updated with new evidence their historiographical premisses and narrative techniques remain largely unchallenged The epistemological upheavals in the humanities since the 1960s have generated a body of theoretical thought that has undermined many of the assumptions of traditional biography Consequently many of these assumptions have lost their hold as viable underpinnings for present day scholarly biography For example the accumulation of facts is no longer believed to bring us closer to an understanding of the subject nor are the traditional views of the unified self and the self as a foundational idea taken for granted This volume brings together musicologists and historians who explore through individual case studies the rich potential of these new theories for writing musical lives The authors of this volume examine how the insights provided by these theories illuminate our critical reassessment of older biographies and the interpretations of musical works these biographies were used to construe and help forge new approaches to musical biography The authors also explore the functions musical biographies served in different historical contexts the relevance of biography for musical criticism the reliability of archival evidence the ethics of biography the demands placed on biography by feminist and gender history and the new possibilities offered by cinema The contributors to this volume challenge the view that biography has little importance for music history analysis and criticism Collectively they reassert biography's centrality and relevance and dem

Ernst Krenek and the Politics of Musical Style Peter Tregear, 2013-07-05 Ernst Krenek has been described as a one man history of twentieth century music His vast compositional output encompasses many of its extremes and expresses many of its contradictions Few have attempted however to contextualize Krenek's compositional output because our understanding

of classical music in the first half of the twentieth century still largely remains focused on the music of a few canonical figures Responding to renewed interest from performers in Krenek's work particularly his operas Peter Tregear's *Ernst Krenek and the Politics of Musical Style* addresses this gap in the scholarly literature and makes an important contribution to our comprehension of the ways in which his music reflected and informed broader social and political debates in Austria and Germany at the time Focusing on Krenek's compositional path from the eclectic musical language of *Jonny spielt auf* to the austere twelve tone technique of *Karl V* Tregear provides an historical and critical context to this most historically significant period of Krenek's creative life His study also enriches our understanding of many of Krenek's contemporaries such as Alban Berg and Arnold Schoenberg This book should interest students scholars and practitioners with an interest in modern opera and contemporary classical music as well as early 20th century German history more generally

A Cultural History of the Chinese Language Sharron Gu, 2011-12-22 Chinese one of the oldest active languages evolved over 5 000 years As such it makes for a fascinating case study in the development of language This cultural history of Chinese demonstrates that the language grew and responded to its music and visual expression in a manner very similar to contemporary English and other Western languages Within Chinese cultural history lie the answers to numerous questions that have haunted scholars for decades How does language relate to worldview What would happen to law after its language loses absolute binding power How do music visual and theatrical images influence literature By presenting Chinese not as a system of signs but as the history of a community this study shows how language has expanded the scope of Chinese imagination and offers a glimpse into the future of younger languages throughout the world

Brahms's a German Requiem R. Allen Lott, 2020 Examines in detail the contexts of Brahms's masterpiece and demonstrates that contrary to recent consensus it was performed and received as an inherently Christian work during the composer's life

What Art Is Michelle Kamhi, Louis Torres, 2016-05-26 What is art The arts establishment has a simple answer anything is art if a reputed artist or expert says it is Though many people are skeptical about the alleged new art forms that have proliferated since the early twentieth century today's critics claim that all such work however incomprehensible is art A groundbreaking alternative to this view is provided by philosopher novelist Ayn Rand 1901-1982 Best known as the author of *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged* Rand also created an original and illuminating theory of art which confirms the widespread view that much of today's purported art is not really art at all In *What Art Is* Torres and Kamhi present a lucid introduction to Rand's esthetic theory contrasting her ideas with those of other thinkers They conclude that in its basic principles her account is compelling and is corroborated by evidence from anthropology neurology cognitive science and psychology The authors apply Rand's theory to a debunking of the work of prominent modernists and postmodernists from Mondrian Jackson Pollock and Samuel Beckett to John Cage Merce Cunningham and other highly regarded postmodernist figures Finally they explore the implications of Rand's ideas for the issues of government and corporate support of the arts art law and art education This is one of the most interesting

provocative and well written books on aesthetics that I know While fully accessible to the general reader What Art Is should be of great interest to specialists as well Ayn Rand s largely unknown writings on art especially as interpreted released from dogma and smoothed out by Torres and Kamhi are remarkably refined Moreover her ideas are positively therapeutic after a century of artistic floundering and aesthetic quibbling Anyone interested in aesthetics in the purpose of art or in the troubling issues posed by modernism and post modernism should read this book Randall R Dipert Author of Artifacts Art Works and Agency Torres and Kamhi effectively situate Rand s long neglected esthetic theory in the wider history of ideas They not only illuminate her significant contribution to an understanding of the nature of art they also apply her ideas to a trenchant critique of the twentieth century s advanced art Their exposure of the invalidity of abstract art is itself worth the price of admission Chris Matthew Sciabarra Author of Ayn Rand The Russian Radical Rand s aesthetic theory merits careful study and thoughtful criticism which Torres and Kamhi provide Their scholarship is sound their presentation is clear and their judgment is refreshingly free from the biases that Rand s supporters and detractors alike tend to bring to considerations of her work Stephen Cox University of California San Diego **Style and Music** Leonard B.

Meyer,2024-12-23 Leonard Meyer proposes a theory of style and style change that relates the choices made by composers to the constraints of psychology cultural context and musical traditions He explores why out of the abundance of compositional possibilities composers choose to replicate some patterns and neglect others Meyer devotes the latter part of his book to a sketch history of nineteenth century music He shows explicitly how the beliefs and attitudes of Romanticism influenced the choices of composers from Beethoven to Mahler and into our own time A monumental work Most authors concede the relation of music to its cultural milieu but few have probed so deeply in demonstrating this interaction Choice Probes the foundations of musical research precisely at the joints where theory and history fold into one another Kevin Korsyn Journal of American Musicological Society A remarkably rich and multifaceted yet unified argument No one else could have brought off this immense project with anything like Meyer s command Robert P Morgan Music Perception Anyone who attempts to deal with Romanticism in scholarly depth must bring to the task not only musical and historical expertise but unquenchable optimism Because Leonard B Meyer has those qualities in abundance he has been able to offer fresh insight into the Romantic concept Donal Henahan New York Times

Arda Philology 4 Beregond, Anders Stenström,2013-08-08 *The Reader's Adviser* ,1986 A Marriage of Philosophy and Music Erich Welling,2014-04 How to use philosophy and music to open your horizons and enjoy being yourself put theory to work and help you experience personal growth is discussed in A Marriage of Philosophy and Music It is all about after After having a liberal education you are comfortable in modern culture and after further education and becoming a specialist in some field you enjoy using your skills We learn the ideas and methods of many social cultures and our own chosen specialty but we often neglect the liberal art of disciplining and enjoying the ideas and methods of our own individuality This book offers a path toward the education of privacy with the key

words being selection design and beauty The book relates five areas of general human interest spirituality philosophy science art and body awareness The interrelation is accomplished by using personal patterns of experience that are available from philosophy and music Because of the plurality of subject matters and methods used in philosophy and music their patterns of discipline are comparable to self discipline A Marriage of Philosophy and Music attempts to create a path in this direction because besides the enjoyment of social culture and personal skills there is enjoyment in being yourself which is a neglected liberal art

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