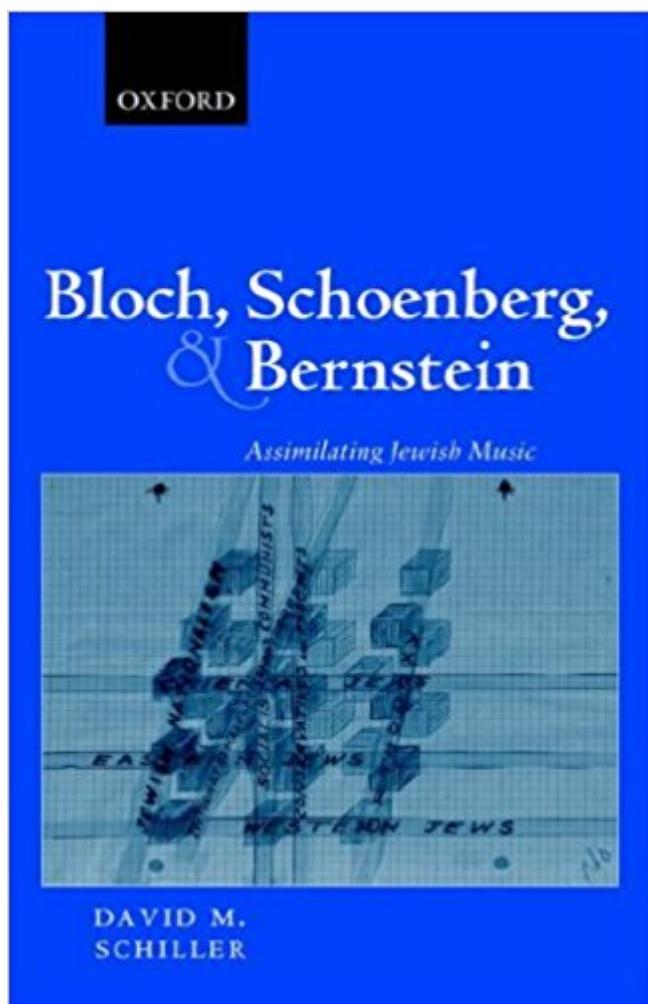


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Bloch, Schoenberg, And Bernstein: Assimilating Jewish Music



Synopsis

David Schiller's study of the Jewish music of Bloch, Schoenberg, and Bernstein reveals how, in the mid-twentieth century, the problem of assimilation was acutely felt as the unfinished business of European Jewry, at a time when American Jewry was creating its own distinctive culture (albeit with European roots). This incisive study sheds new light on an important aspect of the cultural and aesthetic achievements of these seminal Jewish composers.

Book Information

Hardcover: 207 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (May 22, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0198167113

ISBN-13: 978-0198167112

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.8 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #4,777,655 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Bloch #63 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Schoenberg #7197 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

Customer Reviews

... fascinating analysis. * Jewish Chronicle * ...fine book * Ruth HaCohen, Language, Literature, and the Arts *

David M. Schiller is at University of Georgia.

This may appeal only to specialists. It analyzes how three major composers brought "Jewish" music and expression into their music in terms of stages of assimilation into the larger American culture in the following works: the Avodath Hakodesh, A Survivor from Warsaw, and the Symphony No. 3 "Kaddish." Schiller analyzes anti-Semitism and Jewish responses to it in three different eras and how this influenced the particular artistic response. Schiller demands a certain historical and musical sophistication (it's a "difficult" book), although it doesn't focus on the technical aspects of the music, but the analysis, mainly in the area of intellectual history, is sharp and valuable.

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