



Conceptualizing Music: Cognitive Structure, Theory, and Analysis (AMS Studies in Music)

By Lawrence M. Zbikowski

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This book shows how recent work in cognitive science, especially that developed by cognitive linguists and cognitive psychologists, can be used to explain how we understand music. The book focuses on three cognitive processes--categorization, cross-domain mapping, and the use of conceptual models--and explores the part these play in theories of musical organization.

The first part of the book provides a detailed overview of the relevant work in cognitive science, framed around specific musical examples. The second part brings this perspective to bear on a number of issues with which music scholarship has often been occupied, including the emergence of musical syntax and its relationship to musical semiosis, the problem of musical ontology, the relationship between words and music in songs, and conceptions of musical form and musical hierarchy.

The book will be of interest to music theorists, musicologists, and ethnomusicologists, as well as those with a professional or avocational interest in the application of work in cognitive science to humanistic principles.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Zbikowski's comprehensive account of the ways in which music can be interpreted in terms of its conceptual dimensions in cognition constitutes a significant contribution to the understanding of music in cognitive terms."--*Journal of the American Musicological Society*

"Zbikowski embraces many discreet strands in the gamut of thought on music theory and cognitive psychology in this groundbreaking study. He provides a clear outline of each field of research, both historical and contemporary, before carefully weaving them together...Recommended."--*Choice*

About the Author

Lawrence Zbikowski has taught music theory and analysis at the University of Chicago since 1993.

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