

(Read free ebook) The Musical Life

The Musical Life

W. A. Mathieu

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#826212 in Books Shambhala Publications 1994-05-24 1994-05-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .60 x 5.50l, .74 #File Name: 0877736707248 pages ISBN13: 9780877736707 Condition: New Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 19.Mb

W. A. Mathieu : The Musical Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Musical Life:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The single best book on music I've ever read By Mark

McDermottThe single best book on music I've ever read. And one of the most beautifully written books of any kind I've encountered.9 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Mixed.By A CustomerSome useful information and observations, mixed with a fair amount of totally off-the-wall nonsense.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Music and the SoulBy Donald E. SkiffI read this book--no, I red this book in headfuls. His little essays, some only a page long, are thoughts standing more or less alone. Of course, they are all related to the title of the book, but like most profound thoughts, they seem somehow innocent and uncontrived. If I, being greedy, kept going page after page, I lost that sense of the innocence; I lost him. It was as though we--good friends--were sitting in the same room, reading our separate things or thinking our separate thoughts, and he clears his throat to politely get my attention, and then speaks. No dialog needed, except perhaps a grunt or a hmmm to acknowledge. I absorb his words and translate them into my own patterns of thinking, savoring the thought, tasting in it several flavors of meaning. Alas, in reading a book, there's no immediate way to respond to such insights.Wonderful experience, this book. It's all about music, which is all about life. He ponders the relationships between music and words, how music is experienced directly, while words merely point to experiences: "This is like that." But even words strike us in two ways: as sounds and as metaphors standing for something else. Poets know this well, and Allaudin Mathieu turns words over on his tongue to get their full flavor. If one eats a crisp, ripe apple without tasting it, one gets only nourishment of the body. Sorry about one's deprived soul. This author tastes everything. Even his own name. At some point in his early adulthood he studied Sufi, and was given the name Alla-uddin, meaning "seeker" or "teacher." In one short essay he savors the name as both the collection of sounds and as a pointer to at least one piece of who he feels he is. "Bill" was his given name, but as an adult professional he chose to simply use his initials, W.A. Mathieu. Even this little story gave me some moments to think about the feelings I have about my own name. Another sound, crisp apple to taste.There's more here than even that which I found in his later book, Bridge of Waves, which introduced me to this wonderful mind. I learned--finally--(or perhaps not so finally) what makes the blues something different, something special. It's the seventh partial. OMG, as the kids say. As simple as that, and as complex as it will turn out to be when I look really deeply into it. How many years have I wondered aloud, and nobody answered in a way that I could understand. Of course. The seventh partial. I leave it at that, if you're as curious as I.He loves numbers, because numbers define the universe. They define us. This, from a Sufi mystic? It's because numbers define music, and we can no more detach ourselves from music than from $e=mc^2$. And yet, music gives that which we yearn for:"It is part of growing up to recognize innocent desire, to own it and inhabit it willfully. Then we can transform it into something useful. Music is an agent for that recognition. In the safe haven of music, we can live in our pleasure shamelessly, intelligently, experimentally, indulgently. We can take hours--years--to learn that part of our nature."I still don't know why I respond to drum solo in Iron Butterfly's "Inna Gadda da Vida" or the largo in Shostakovich's Fifth or the seventy-year-old body of the woman I love, but I do. And thanks to Alla-uddin, I also love the Mystery of it all.I'm sure there are other books from which one could get the technical information about music theory. In this book, it's toward the back, in a couple of sections titled "Sound Is the Teacher." Ahead of that, you find the person of W.A. Mathieu writing about that which he loves--and lives--music. If music moves you, so will this book.

Everyone, according to W.A. Mathieu, is musical by natureit goes right along with being human. And if you don't believe it, this book will convince you. In a series of interrelated short essays, Mathieu takes the reader on a journey through ordinary experiences to open our ears to the rich variety of music that surrounds us but that we are trained to ignore; such as the variety of pitches produced by different objects, like glassware, furniture, drumsanything you can tap; or sounds that hover on the border of music, like laughter, the clinking of glasses in a toast, or the unintentional falsetto produced by yawning. Along the way the author teaches aspects of music theory that nonmusicians might ordinarily shy away from. He reveals the way of music to be a profoundly spiritual pathone that is everyone's birthright.

From Library JournalMathieu, a pianist/composer who recently added writing to his daily routine (The Listening Book , Shambhala, 1991), offers wise counsel about expressiveness in both words and music. He urges his readers to realize the essential musicality of existence itself. Mathieu's care with specialized terms is exemplified by his delightful explanation of overtones. Composed of short, philosophical pieces inviting contemplation, argument, and further questioning--as articles on aesthetics generally do--this book reflects its author's Sufi beliefs and will probably appeal to fans of New Age music and their libraries.- Bonnie Jo Dopp, formerly with Dist . of Columbia P.L.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistJudging from his book, practicing Sufi Mathieu is a philosopher in the Thoreauvian cast. Also known by the name Allaudin, he has had a diverse career as composer, performer, and mystic, all of which is apparent in his treatment of music as a spiritual force with a technical side to it. Aiming to affirm his belief in the centrality of music to human nature, he addresses the nature of musical experience in a string of short, aphoristic essays on subjects ranging from aspects of music theory to observations on the types of falsetto produced by yawning. He writes beautifully, and the book has a calming, uplifting effect not unlike that of the better New Age music, and indeed, Mathieu has recorded several albums for the New Age label Windham Hill. Those

seeking a verbal analogue to that kind of music will enjoy this book. John Shreffler
About the Author William Allaudin Mathieu is a composer pianist whose long and varied career ranges from his early work with the Stan Kenton band and The Second City Theater, to his extensive catalogue of song cycles, works for choir, and instrumental concert music. He has recorded extensively, and is the author of *The Listening Book*, *The Musical Life*, and *Harmonic Experience: Tonal Harmony from Its Natural Origin to Its Modern Expression*.