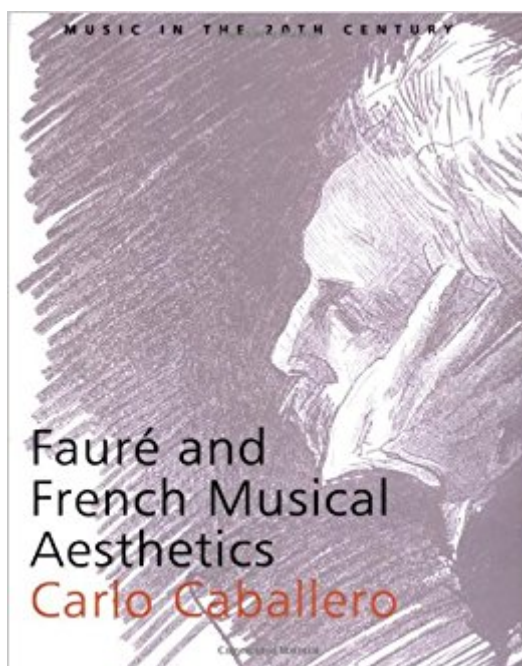


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Fauré And French Musical Aesthetics (Music In The Twentieth Century)



Synopsis

This wide-ranging study of Gabriel Fauré and his contemporaries reclaims aesthetic categories crucial to French musical life in the early twentieth century. Its interrelated chapters treat the topics of sincerity, originality, novelty, self-renewal, homogeneity and religious belief in relation to Fauré's music and ideas. Taking a broad view of cultural life during the composer's lifetime and beyond, the book moves between specific details in Fauré's music and related critical, literary and philosophical issues, ranging from Gounod to Boulez and from Proust to Valéry. Above all, the book connects abstract values to artistic choices and thus places such works as Fauré's Requiem, La bonne chanson, La chanson d'Eve, L'horizon chimérique, and the chamber music in a new light.

Book Information

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'The wealth of music examples he quotes is beautifully printed. His research is impeccable. An enlightening book.' James Harding, BBC Music Magazine 'Unified by recurring ideas and methodology as useful as the music itself. It holds a mirror to the composer's meticulous, art-concealing art and should remain a landmark in French cultural studies for a long time to come.' The Times Literary Supplement '... stimulating ... it is hard to imagine that this finely researched, well produced and wide ranging study will not significantly enrich the reader's experience of Fauré's music. ... this book broadens the perspective not only laterally, as it were, exploring the influences,

ethics and perspectives that shaped Fauré's own environment, but upwards, chronologically speaking, taking in the heritage of the composer and his cultural milieu as it affected such non-Fauréan figures as Stravinsky, Varèse, Messiaen and particularly Boulez.' Piano

This wide-ranging study of Fauré and his contemporaries reclaims aesthetic categories crucial to French musical life in the early twentieth-century. It considers such questions as the meaning of personal style in art and the representation of religious belief in music.

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