

the oxford dictionary of musical works

alison latham

the oxford dictionary of musical works alison latham is a comprehensive reference book that offers detailed information on a vast array of musical compositions across genres and periods. Compiled by Alison Latham, this dictionary stands out as an authoritative resource for musicians, scholars, students, and enthusiasts seeking accurate and concise data on musical works. It encompasses a wide variety of compositions, including classical, opera, symphonies, chamber music, and more contemporary pieces, making it a versatile tool for research and study. The dictionary not only provides essential details such as composers, dates, and historical context but also offers insights into the significance and structure of each work. In this article, we will explore the background of the Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham, its content and features, its importance in musicology, and practical applications for different users. This detailed review aims to highlight why this dictionary remains an indispensable reference in the field of music.

- Overview of the Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham
- Content and Structure of the Dictionary
- Significance in Music Research and Education
- Author Profile: Alison Latham
- Usage and Practical Applications

Overview of the Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham

The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham is a meticulously curated reference that catalogs a broad spectrum of musical compositions from various historical periods and styles. Published by Oxford University Press, this dictionary serves as a vital source for identifying, understanding, and contextualizing musical works. It is designed to cater to a diverse audience, ranging from professional musicians to academic researchers and music students. The dictionary's scope includes well-known masterpieces as well as lesser-known but significant compositions, providing a balanced and thorough overview of the musical repertoire.

Historical Context and Publication

The dictionary was developed to fill a gap in music reference literature by offering concise yet comprehensive entries on individual musical works. Alison Latham, an experienced editor and musicologist, brought together authoritative information drawing from various scholarly sources. The publication reflects the latest research trends and musicological discoveries at the time of its release, making it a reliable and up-to-date resource for

users.

Target Audience and Accessibility

This dictionary is primarily intended for musicologists, educators, performers, and students who require quick access to verified information about musical compositions. Its clear and structured format aids in ease of use, supporting efficient fact-finding and study. Furthermore, its accessibility in libraries, academic institutions, and personal collections underscores its wide acceptance and usability.

Content and Structure of the Dictionary

The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham is organized alphabetically by the title of the musical work, allowing for straightforward navigation. Each entry delivers essential data about the piece, including composer information, composition date, premiere details, scoring, and a brief description or analysis. The dictionary covers a broad chronological range, from early music to contemporary works, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Types of Musical Works Included

The dictionary features a diverse range of musical works, covering genres such as:

- Symphonies and orchestral works
- Operas and vocal music
- Chamber music and solo instrumental pieces
- Choral works and sacred music
- Contemporary and experimental compositions

Entry Format and Information Detail

Each dictionary entry typically includes the following elements:

1. **Title:** The official or most recognized name of the work.
2. **Composer:** Full name and vital dates of the composer.
3. **Date of Composition:** When the piece was composed or first performed.
4. **Instrumentation:** Details about the ensemble or solo instruments involved.
5. **Historical and Analytical Notes:** Brief contextual information or comments on the work's style and significance.

Significance in Music Research and Education

The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham holds substantial importance in academic and professional music circles. It provides a foundation for research by offering verified and succinct information, which supports further analysis and interpretation of musical compositions. Educators rely on this dictionary to supplement course materials and guide students in music history and theory. It also aids performers in gaining a deeper understanding of the works they study and present.

Role in Academic Research

For musicologists and scholars, the dictionary functions as a key reference to verify facts and gather preliminary data on musical works. It helps ensure accuracy in publications, program notes, and scholarly writing. The concise yet comprehensive nature of the entries allows researchers to access critical information without sifting through voluminous texts.

Educational Benefits

Music educators use the dictionary as a resource to introduce students to a wide repertoire, providing contextual background that enriches learning. The dictionary's accessible language and structured entries make it an excellent tool for teaching music history, appreciation, and analysis.

Author Profile: Alison Latham

Alison Latham is a distinguished editor and musicologist recognized for her contributions to music reference literature. Her expertise in cataloging and contextualizing musical works is evident in the comprehensive and authoritative nature of the Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works. Latham's background in musicology and editorial practice ensures that the dictionary meets scholarly standards while remaining user-friendly.

Editorial Approach

Latham's meticulous editorial approach involves synthesizing information from primary and secondary sources to present reliable and balanced entries. She emphasizes clarity and relevance, ensuring that each musical work is represented accurately with pertinent historical and analytical data. Her work reflects a commitment to supporting the music community with trustworthy reference material.

Contributions to Musicology

Beyond this dictionary, Alison Latham has contributed to various music reference projects, enhancing the accessibility of music scholarship. Her efforts have helped bridge the gap between academic research and practical application, benefiting a broad audience within the musical arts.

Usage and Practical Applications

The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works Alison Latham is utilized in various practical contexts, from academic research to performance preparation. Its detailed yet concise entries make it an efficient tool for quickly obtaining essential information about a musical work. This usability extends across multiple disciplines within music.

For Performers

Performers use the dictionary to gain insights into the background and structure of pieces they intend to play. Understanding the historical and stylistic context aids in interpretation and informed performance practices.

For Librarians and Archivists

Music librarians and archivists find this dictionary invaluable for cataloging and organizing music collections. The accurate data aids in classification and retrieval of musical works within institutional holdings.

For Music Enthusiasts

Even non-professionals benefit from the dictionary's clear explanations and comprehensive coverage. It serves as an educational resource that deepens appreciation and knowledge of diverse musical compositions.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works' by Alison Latham?

It is a comprehensive reference book that provides detailed information about a wide range of musical compositions from various periods and genres, authored by Alison Latham.

Who is Alison Latham, the author of 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works'?

Alison Latham is a respected musicologist and author known for her work in compiling and editing music reference materials, including 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works.'

What kind of information can be found in 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works' by Alison Latham?

The dictionary includes entries on musical compositions detailing their titles, composers, historical context, genre, and notable performances or recordings.

How is 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works' useful for music students and researchers?

It serves as an authoritative resource for identifying and understanding musical works, aiding in music analysis, historical research, and academic study.

Is 'The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works' by Alison Latham available in digital format?

Yes, the dictionary is available both in print and digital formats, making it accessible for online research and convenient reference.

Additional Resources

1. *The Oxford Dictionary of Music* by Alison Latham

This comprehensive dictionary offers detailed entries on composers, musical terms, genres, and instruments. It serves as an essential reference for students, musicians, and music enthusiasts seeking clear and concise information. The book is updated regularly to include contemporary developments in music.

2. *The Oxford Companion to Music* by Alison Latham

A highly respected guide to the world of music, this companion covers a broad spectrum of musical topics including history, theory, performance, and notable figures. It provides in-depth articles that explore musical styles and cultural contexts. The book is ideal for both academic study and general interest.

3. *The Oxford Dictionary of Opera* by John Warrack and Ewan West

Though not authored by Latham, this dictionary complements her work by focusing specifically on opera. It includes entries on operatic works, composers, librettists, and performers. The book is invaluable for those researching or enjoying the operatic repertoire.

4. *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* edited by Stanley Sadie

This expansive reference work is one of the most authoritative sources in music scholarship. It offers detailed articles on virtually every aspect of music, including biographies, musicology, and ethnomusicology. While more extensive than Latham's dictionary, it complements her accessible style.

5. *The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Terms* by Alison Latham

Focusing on terminology, this dictionary explains musical vocabulary in clear and concise language. It is particularly useful for students and educators needing quick definitions of technical terms. The book enhances understanding of music theory and practice.

6. *The Oxford History of Western Music* by Richard Taruskin

This multi-volume history provides a thorough narrative of Western music from antiquity to the present. While not a dictionary, it offers context for many of the works and composers found in Latham's dictionary. The series is praised for its scholarly rigor and engaging prose.

7. *The Oxford Dictionary of Jazz* by Ian Carr, Digby Fairweather, and Brian Priestley

This specialized dictionary covers jazz musicians, styles, and terminology.

It complements Latham's broader work by focusing on this influential genre. The book is essential for jazz enthusiasts and researchers.

8. *The Oxford Dictionary of Musical Biography* by John Tyrrell

This reference concentrates on the lives and careers of composers and performers. It provides concise biographical details that support the entries found in Latham's dictionary. The book is useful for understanding the historical context of musical works.

9. *The Oxford Guide to Classical Music* by Michael Kennedy

Offering an accessible overview of classical music, this guide includes biographies, work lists, and explanations of musical forms. It serves as a practical companion to the Oxford Dictionary of Musical Works. The guide is suitable for both beginners and seasoned listeners.

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