

The book was found

How Music Works

RecordedBooks

HOW
MUSIC
WORKS



DAVID
BYRNE

Narrated by Andrew Garman



Synopsis

Best known as a founding member and principal songwriter of the iconic band Talking Heads, David Byrne has received Grammy, Oscar, and Golden Globe awards and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In the insightful *How Music Works*, Byrne offers his unique perspective on music - including how music is shaped by time, how recording technologies transform the listening experience, the evolution of the industry, and much more.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: October 25, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B009WRXR3Y

Best Sellers Rank: #1 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnomusicology #5 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Recording & Sound #5 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Business

Customer Reviews

Byrne begins his wide-ranging historical, technological, psychological and sociological examination of music with a novel insight: architecture of musical venues shape composition and instrumental arrangements. Regarding huge gothic cathedrals, intimate nightclubs, and jungle camp sites, room reverberation, volume of space, and audience vocal ambience dictate modal versus scale works, instrument development, and performance dynamics. The great revolutionary divide was recording technology, and musicians discovered that what works live does not necessarily achieve the same result on vinyl, tape, CD, or .mp3, and vice versa. Expectations often lead to disappointment and the performance and performer suffers. With such an interesting introduction, the book offers much promise. It almost fulfills expectations with both personal and general tidbits and theses that reward the reader, though for myself his personal examples are somewhat weaker. The second chapter is an musical autobiographical section describing the evolution of his music and stage attire over the succeeding eras of rock. In his world travels, his encounter with Japanese and Balinese traditional music and theatre art had a profound influence on the development of his stage craft. One of his

suits clearly had classic Japanese origins. Chapters 3 and 4 return to musicology with an expansion of the role of technology, recording and playback. The historical account is amusing when considering the delusions of reality instilled by each new device on the unconditioned and uneducated ear.

This is David Byrne week for me. On Sunday, I caught the sensational David Byrne and St. Vincent show at the Orpheum Theater in Boston. The last time I saw Byrne live was when I caught the Talking Heads on August 19, 1983 at the old Forrest Hills Tennis Stadium in New York City. So, clearly I was already a Byrne fan. How Music Works The other part of David Byrne week is his fabulous new book *How Music Works*. The book is Byrne's take on the industry he's succeeded in. He offers keen observations about the music industry, the art of making music, telling stories in the book using a combination of history, anthropology, and music theory. I love this book! In particular, Byrne has a fascinating take on the development of music, which is quite different from what other music historians say. In a chapter titled "Creation in Reverse" he argues that music evolves to fill the space where it is performed. For example, the Talking Heads evolved in the 1970s at New York punk club CBGB requiring volume to overcome the din. The sparse music that came out of the CBGB scene such as the Ramones and Television worked perfectly for that room. Music that evolved in gothic cathedrals (lots of reverberation) has long notes with no key changes. Carnegie Hall and other similar rooms require texture. With discos, people made music to exploit the fantastic sound systems and people's need to dance. Rock music played in hockey arenas (the worst acoustics on the planet) must be straightforward with medium tempos. You get the idea. The music that is successful works perfectly for each venue. With personal sound systems (starting with the Walkman in the 1970s then evolving into MP3 players such as the iPod), all of a sudden you can hear every single detail.

I enjoyed this book. It has transparency and thoughtfulness I haven't seen in other books about music. Mr Byrne gets to the guts of what's going on in music today. I claim, however, that in Chapter 9 he's faking it. For those who have not read this chapter, one premise is loosely that classical music is over-venerated, over-funded and that pop music is the true underdog: underfunded and never getting enough respect from critics especially for works emerging from amateur musicians. David writes: "I never got Bach, Mozart or Beethoven - and don't feel any worse for it". I suggest the exact opposite of his premise is the case: look at the budgets for pop music albums. In fact look at the budget Byrne himself tables in the book for a recent album - \$218,000. The documentary 'Sound

City' talks of budgets reaching \$400,000 to \$600,000 in the 1970s for pop albums - one can only imagine what they are today. Do you think classical music has anything like these budgets? Try raising kickstarter money for a woodwind quintet, or better yet - approach a record label for funding. Those I know trying to get new works off the ground in the classical tradition are lucky to raise a few thousand dollars to do this work. Today the tradition emerging from classical times is the underdog. Cumulatively pop music spends over 13 billion dollars a year on recording, arranging and performance fees for its songs. And yet they still collectively haven't made a piece as good as Beethoven's 9th symphony. So who is the underdog in this battle? They have multi-core workstations, high-speed data links to each others studios, world-wide access to musical talent in an international studio system, an international payment system...what else?

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Shaping Forces in Music: An Inquiry into the Nature of Harmony, Melody, Counterpoint and Form (The Dover Series of Study Editions, Chamber Music, Orchestral Works, Operas in Full Score) Spanish Piano Music: 24 Works by de Falla, Alb  niz, Granados, Soler and Turina (Dover Music for Piano) How It Works: Big Rigs (How It Works (Simon & Schuster)) The Confessions: (Vol. I/1) Revised, (The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century) (The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century, Vol. 1) Works of Love Are Works of Peace: Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Missionaries of Charity The Collected Works of Billy Graham: Three Bestselling Works Complete in One Volume (Angels, How to Be Born Again, and The Holy Spirit) Luther's Works, Volume 41: Church and Ministry III (Luther's Works (Augsburg)) How the Immune System Works (The How it Works Series) Network Marketing: It Works! Jumpstart Guide to Success - Promote, Prospect & Party (Network Marketing, MLM, It Works) Arbitrage: The authoritative guide on how it works, why it works, and how it can work for you Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys.: A Memoir MUSIC CITY NEWS magazine March 1980 George Jones on cover (The Sound of a City Heard Around The World, Volume XVII No. 9, Country Music, Bluegrass Music,) Music in Brazil: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture Includes CD (Global Music Series) Music in Ireland: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture (Global Music Series) Blank Sheet Music: Music Manuscript Paper / Staff Paper / Musicians Notebook (Christmas Edition) (Holiday Blank Sheet music) (Volume 5) Blank Sheet Music For Piano: White Cover, Bracketed Staff Paper, Clefs Notebook, 100 pages, 100 full staved sheet, music sketchbook, Music Notation ... gifts Standard for students / Professionals Blank Sheet Music: Elegant Violet Cover, Music Manuscript Paper, Staff Paper, Musicians Notebook, Durable Book Binding, (Composition Books - Music ... Stave * 100 pages, 8" x 10" (20.32 x 25.4 cm) Blank Sheet

Music: Music Manuscript Paper / Staff Paper / Musicians Notebook [Book Bound (Perfect Binding) *
12 Stave * 100 pages * Large * Treble Clefs] (Composition Books - Music Manuscript Paper) Cool
Hip-Hop Music: Create & Appreciate What Makes Music Great! (Cool Music) A-Life for Music: Music
and Computer Models of Living Systems (Computer Music and Digital Audio Series)

[Dmca](#)