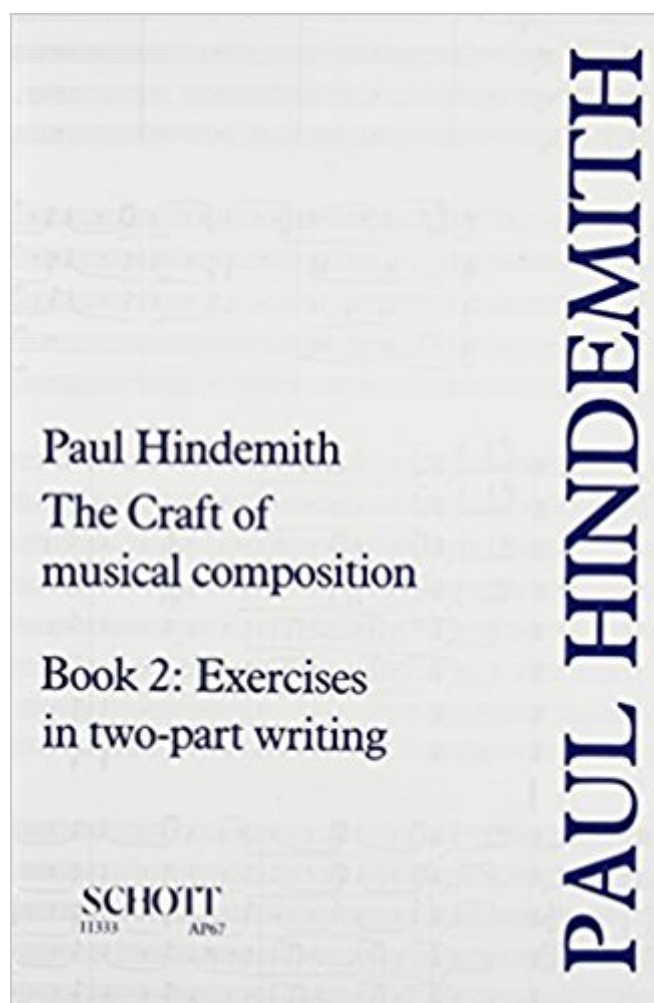


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The Craft Of Musical Composition: Book 2 (Stap/067)



Synopsis

(Schott). Originally published in the 1940s, Paul Hindemith's remarkable textbooks are still the outstanding works of their kind. In contrast to many musical textbooks written by academic musicians, these were produced by a man who could play every instrument of the orchestra, could compose a satisfying piece for almost every kind of ensemble, and who was one of the most stimulating teachers of his day. It is therefore not surprising that nearly forty years later these books should remain essential reading for the student and the professional musician. Preface * Construction of the Simplest One-Voice Melodic Patterns * Beginning of Two-Voice Setting * Elaborated Melody (Auxiliary or Turning Tones, Passing Tones) * Elaborated Melody (Continuation) * Principles of Melodic Construction * Elaborated Melody (Conclusion) * Tonal Higher-Units * Tonality of the Melodies * Elaboration of the Melody Model * Free Two-Voice Setting I and II

Book Information

Series: Stap/067

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Schott (October 1, 1984)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0901938416

ISBN-13: 978-0901938411

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #510,656 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #190 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Songwriting #797 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory #992 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera

Customer Reviews

I purchased this book (and Book 1: Theory) for my daughter who aspires to be a composer. My low rating is not pertaining to the content of the books, but rather to the quality of the printing. The book is simply physically too small. There are many, many illustrations in the book, and most of them are very difficult to read due to the small size of the print. Some of the illustrations are impossible to read, for the same reason. The details of the illustration are literally obliterated by being so small

that the numbers, characters, and symbols cannot be distinguished. I have no doubt that the content of the book is good, but the printing needs to be of higher quality, on better paper, and in a format that is at least 50% larger. Attached is an example

Well, I can't say that I love it, but my son-in-law does. He took a position as a private school music director (bands and choirs, grades K-8). We gave him the Hindemith books for his birthday in August, before classes started. He was very grateful. They have been a huge help as he prepares his lessons, helping students to understand the principles behind the music they are playing. And the books have been useful to him in arranging, or rearranging various pieces for his different groups. It was also useful to him to have these as references in his college masters degree program composition class. One volume or the other is always out on his desk and open to a different page, so it seems clear that he gets plenty of use from them.

needed for a class

The 4 musical composition books, by Paul Hindemith, were given as a gift to a dear friend who raved about them; hence, this review is based upon their extreme delight with them.

MUST HAVE amazing guide for serious musicians

Note: has the wrong image shown for this book (They have Book I, the theory book shown). By the way you don't need Book I to start working in Book 2. Book I is a theory book. Book II is a composition manual. I have found Book I is interesting but not really necessary unless you desire theoretical justification for everything. I started my own approach to composition from a jazz musicians point-of-view where you write a melody and then a chord progression to fit, or you compose a melody to given set of chord changes. This book goes deeper. If you compared it to cooking most composition is modifying given recipes with your own musical spices, or garnishes, etc. In this book you learn how to write music from scratch. You start by learning how to build chord progressions from intervals. Everything you write has to satisfy principles of good counterpoint. Hindemith lists them as rules (translated from German), but really they are guidelines used to build good progressions that are modified later on. Everything is tested through singing. If you cannot sing the patterns you write you throw them out and start over or modify them. After a while you develop the ability to really imagine two discrete musical lines simultaneously but this takes time.

The first two chapters are the most painstaking but build the foundation for everything else. I am not a full-time musician, but am about half way through this little book--8 months later! I would recommend this book to any serious student of music composition that wants to learn how to write music for two parts (two-part counterpoint) using the entire 12 tone scale as material. But without stylistic bias or antiquated rules.

I enjoyed working through Volume II. Hindemith's books on composition are the first I ever used and are a model of clarity. Hence I was delighted to discover that there actually IS a Volume III, at least in German. In translation, the title is: "Exercises in Three-part Writing." Published 1970 by B. Schott's Soehne, Mainz. (Edition Schott 5205, ISBN 3-7957-1605-5, 251 pages.) I bought my copy in Vienna. Couldn't believe that I found it.

This book is the practical application of the principles Hindemith discusses in his theoretical volume of the "Craft of Musical Composition". There fifty-six exercises, two hundred and fifty-one musical examples and sixty-two rules for composition in this small volume. It is meant to be used by students with a skilled teacher who is also an able composer. The approach is intensely practical and is meant to build skill in actually writing music rather than empty exercises to demonstrate this or that rule. Again, the methodology here is based on Hindemith's ideas of composition and theory. Do not expect to be writing exercises in the style of Palestrina, Bach, or Mozart. There are charts and explanations here that will be opaque without having a grounding in the theoretical volume of his "Craft of Musical Composition". You could do much worse than studying these two volumes, but you do have to make a judgment about whether the juice is worth the squeeze.

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