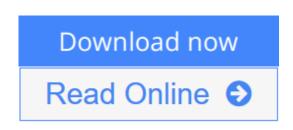


Apollo's Lyre: Greek Music and Music Theory in Antiquity and the Middle Ages

By Thomas J. Mathiesen



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Ancient Greek music and music theory has fascinated scholars for centuries not only because of its intrinsic interest as a part of ancient Greek culture but also because the Greeks' grand concept of music has continued to stimulate musical imaginations to the present day. Unlike earlier treatments of the subject, "Apollo's Lyre" is aimed principally at the reader interested in the musical typologies, the musical instruments, and especially the historical development of music theory and its transmission through the Middle Ages. The basic method and scope of the study are set out in a preliminary chapter, followed by two chapters concentrating on the role of music in Greek society, musical typology, organology, and performance practice. The next chapters are devoted to the music theory itself, as it developed in three stages: in the treatises of Aristoxenus and the Sectio canonis; during the period of revival in the second century C.E.; and in late antiquity. Each theorist and treatise is considered separately but always within the context of the emerging traditions. The theory provides a remarkably complete and coherent system for explaining and analyzing musical phenomena, and a great deal of its conceptual framework, as well as much of its terminology, was borrowed and adapted by medieval Latin, Byzantine, and Arabic music theorists, a legacy reviewed in the final chapter. Transcriptions and analyses of some of the more complete pieces of Greek music preserved on papyrus or stone, or in manuscript, are integrated with a consideration of the musicopoetic types themselves. The book concludes with a comprehensive bibliography for the field, updating and expanding the author's earlier Bibliography of Sources for the Study of Ancient Greek Music.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Apollo's Lyre* is essential reading for all those interested in Greek music and music theory."—Leofranc Holford-Strevens, *Early Music* (Leofranc Holford-Strevens *Early Music*)

"*Apollo's Lyre* is magisterial, encyclopedic, elegantly written, perfectly edited, temperate in its tone, and meticulous in its argument. Further, its rich documentation in translation and in the original Greek gives it the highest credibility. . . . One of its principal strengths [is] the presentation of subject matters from the ancient sources in their original order an from their original viewpoint. This feature, aided by the author's trenchant commentary, will permit readers repeatedly to engage the primary testimony and to construct their own narratives from it in accordance with changing scholarly and pedagogical agendas. Such a book is destined to become a basic reference and an indispensable foundation for advanced competence in the field of ancient Greek music for decades to come."—*Music Theory Spectrum* (*Music Theory Spectrum*)

"This is an important work, indispensable for anyone wishing to approach the field of ancient Greek music."—*Journal of the American Musicological Society* (*Journal of the American Musicological Society*)

About the Author

Thomas J. Mathiesen is David H. Jacobs Distinguished Professor of Music and Director of the Center for the History of Music Theory and Literature at Indiana University.

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