



Sounds of the Orchestra

Antony Hopkins

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Antony Hopkins : Sounds of the Orchestra before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sounds of the Orchestra:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Picking apart the orchestra then putting it togetherBy Kameel NasrI found this an enriching book because it goes through all the instruments of the orchestra and talks about their sound, then he delves into a few examples, Mozart and Schubert and Berlioz, etc, showing how the instruments blend to form the orchestral sound. This book really requires musical ability, but it's satisfying to read.Kameel Nasr, author of The Symphony Heist

In this remarkable book, Antony Hopkins shows how the entire orchestra acts as a distinct musical instrument, one which composers have played upon over the centuries to express every mood, from the most sublime to the most frivolous. In so doing, he explains the ways in which a composer's "signature in sound" develops, from the subtly exotic pattern of a Bartok theme to the sensuously evocative chords in Debussy. Hopkins offers an in-depth look at the origins of the orchestra itself, an evolutionary process that took the better part of two centuries in Europe, yet finds its roots in our ancient past. He begins his discussion in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, moves through the music of medieval Europe, and ultimately reaches a watershed moment in the history of the orchestra as we now know it: the composition of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos in the early eighteenth century. Having introduced the various instruments, explained the development of their groupings, and demonstrated how the blending of their tones led to the orchestral sounds of the modern era, he provides an incisive examination of actual compositions. Expertly guiding

readers through representative pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, and Britten, Hopkins offers a unique and insightful companion for beginning and more seasoned concert-goers alike.

About the Author About the Author: Antony Hopkins, a lecturer, composer, and conductor, is also the author of *The Concertgoers Companion*.