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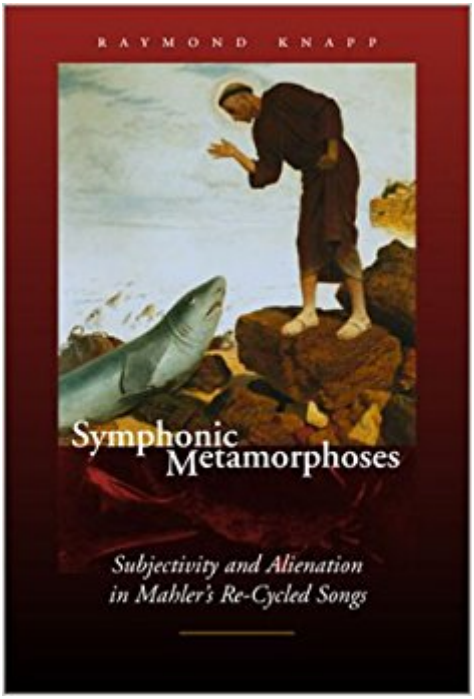
Symphonic Metamorphoses: Subjectivity And Alienation In Mahlerâ€™s Re-Cycled Songs (Music/Culture)



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Synopsis

This revelatory new book takes readers far beyond most existing critical analyses of Mahler’s work, escaping the tired traps of broad historical survey and formalist plot summary. Symphonic Metamorphoses considers Mahlerâ ™s early practice of basing his symphonies on pre-existing songs and elaborates how this practice informs the techniques and tropes of Mahlerâ ™s musico-cultural discourse, involving montage, social satire, subjectivity, autonomy, alienation, childhood, absolute music, time and cosmology. Raymond Knapp explores these themes with persuasive readings backed by impeccable scholarship, providing insights into the organic link between Mahler’s music and his historo-cultural sphere. Knapp’s look at Mahler is unique in terms of both the depth of its inquiry and the freshness of its approach. Symphonic Metamorphoses is a graceful and vital addition to Mahler studies and to musicological studies in general.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Symphonic Metamorphoses is a major contribution to the study of the late romantic symphony. Knapp is a superb writer: the arguments are focused, invariably clear and jargon-free, at the same time the analyses are penetrating." -- Richard Leppert, Samuel Russell Distinguished Professor of Humanities, University of Minnesota

â œSymphonic Metamorphoses is a major contribution to the study of the late romantic symphony.

Knapp is a superb writer: the arguments are focused, invariably clear and jargon-free, at the same time the analyses are penetrating.â • (Richard Leppert, Samuel Russell Distinguished Professor of Humanities, University of Minnesota)â œThis is a highly significant book that contributes in a profound way to research on Mahler. All musicologists should read it. Symphonic Metamorphoses breaks new ground on many levels.â • (Tamara Levitz, Associate Professor, McGill University)

This looks to be a fascinating book primarily about Mahler's first four symphonies. Recommended for those who love Mahler, or are just now learning about this great composer.

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