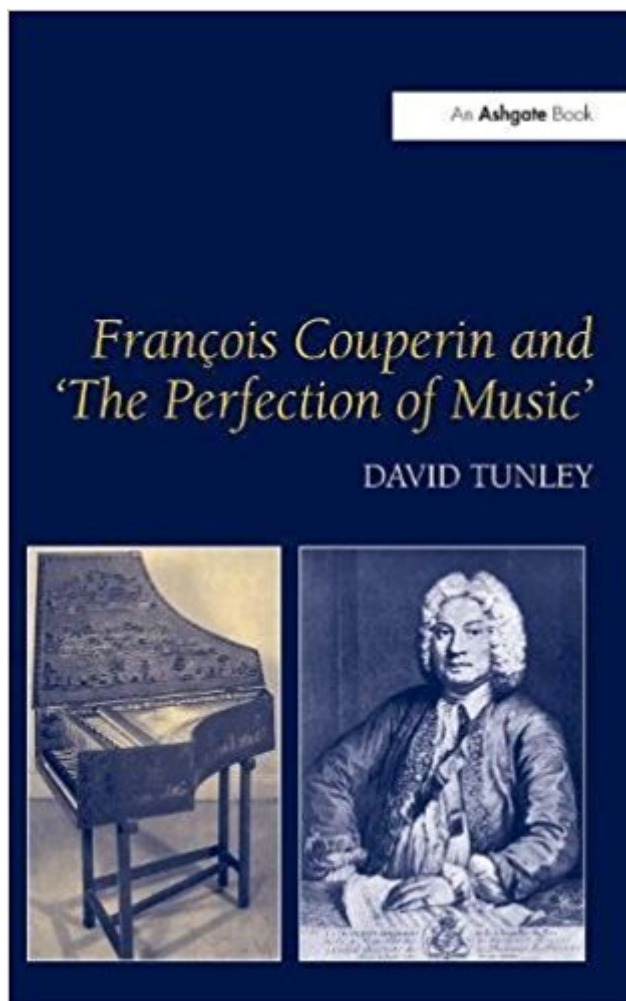


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Francois Couperin And 'The Perfection Of Music'



Synopsis

François Couperin's contribution to the literature of baroque keyboard music has long been recognized. *François Couperin and 'The Perfection of Music'* updates and expands upon David Tunley's valuable 1982 BBC Music Guide to the composer, and examines the whole of Couperin's output including the organ masses, motets and chamber music, in addition to the well-known works for harpsichord. Taking as its focal point Couperin's concept of the perfection of music through the union of the French and Italian styles, this book takes a more analytical approach to Couperin's work. Early chapters outline the main contrasting features of the two schools in the seventeenth- and early eighteenth-centuries, and it becomes clear that Couperin's expressive power owed much to his fusion of the polarities of the French classical tradition with that of the Italian baroque. The book features a number of appendices, including the prefaces to Couperin's work both in the original French and in English translation, and a glossary of dances of the French baroque.

Book Information

Hardcover: 184 pages

Publisher: Routledge; Revised edition (February 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0754609286

ISBN-13: 978-0754609285

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #9,119,904 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Couperin](#) #2558 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Composition](#) #10648 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music](#)

Customer Reviews

'Highly recommended.' Choice Reviews 'It is good that this readable and helpful book has been expanded and updated for another generation of readers.' Early Music Review '... this is a generally pleasing enlargement of a text which I would recommend to anyone seeking a way into Couperin's elusive but endlessly fascinating world.' Early Music 'A welcome update of the author's 1982 survey of Couperin's work published in the BBC Music Guides series, the book amplifies the original text

with new background information, and a wider range of music is discussed. Tunley's lively summaries of Couperin research in the intervening decades open for the average reader a window onto issues of primary source study... the most accessible of the monographs on Couperin currently available.' Music and Letters

David Tunley is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia.

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