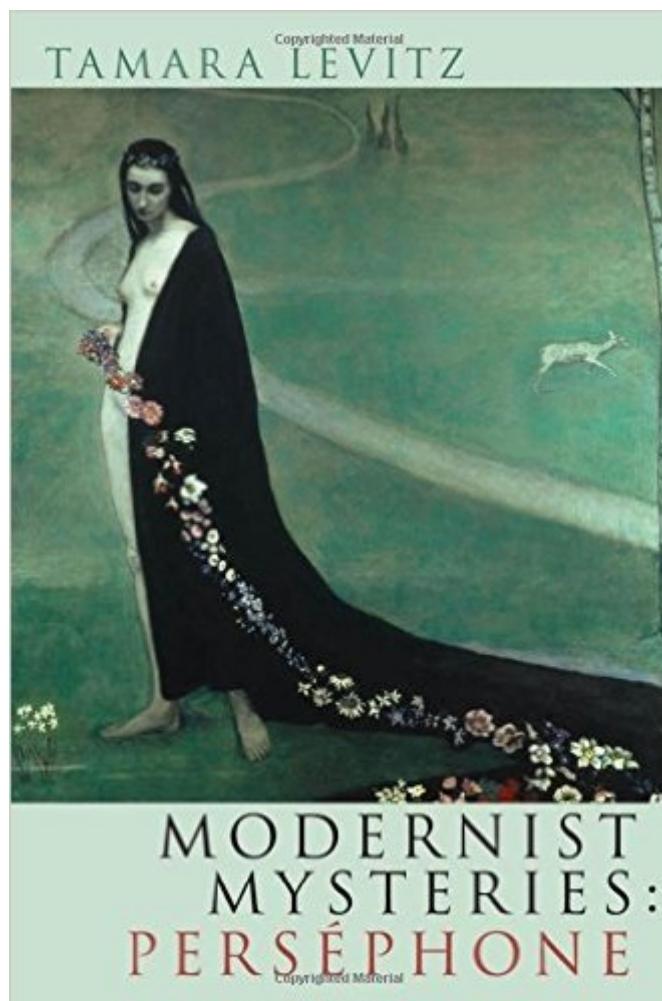


The book was found

Modernist Mysteries: Persephone



Synopsis

Modernist Mysteries: Perséphone is a landmark study that will move the field of musicology in important new directions. The book presents a microhistorical analysis of the premiere of the melodrama Perséphone at the Paris Opera on April 30th, 1934, engaging with the collaborative, transnational nature of the production. Author Tamara Levitz demonstrates how these collaborators-- Igor Stravinsky, André Gide, Jacques Copeau, and Ida Rubinstein, among others--used the myth of Persephone to perform and articulate their most deeply held beliefs about four topics significant to modernism: religion, sexuality, death, and historical memory in art. In investigating the aesthetic and political consequences of the artists' diverging perspectives, and the fall-out of their titanic clash on the theater stage, Levitz dismantles myths about neoclassicism as a musical style. The result is a revisionary account of modernism in music in the 1930s. As a result of its focus on the collaborative performance, this book differs from traditional accounts of musical modernism and neoclassicism in several ways. First and foremost, it centers on the performance of modernism, highlighting the theatrical, performative, and sensual. Levitz places Christianity in the center of the discussion, and questions the national distinctions common in modernist research by involving a transnational team of collaborators. She further breaks new ground in shifting the focus from "history" to "memory" by emphasizing the commemorative nature of neoclassic listening rituals over the historicist stylization of its scores, and contends that modernists captured on stage and in philosophical argument their simultaneous need and inability to mourn the past. The book as a whole counters the common criticism that neoclassicism was a "reactionary" musical style by suggesting a more pluralistic, ambivalent, and sometimes even progressive politics, and reconnects musical neoclassicism with a queer classicist tradition extending from Winckelmann through Walter Pater to Gide. Modernist Mysteries concludes that 1930s modernists understood neoclassicism not as formalist compositional approaches but rather as a vitalist art haunted by ghosts of the past and promissory visions of the future.

Book Information

Hardcover: 680 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (September 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199730164

ISBN-13: 978-0199730162

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 1.8 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,648,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Stravinsky #1956 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera #2725 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory

Customer Reviews

An extraordinary book on one of Stravinsky's most beautiful and most unknown works! Tamara Levitz has done an incredible job of telling the history and explaining this Stravinsky masterpiece. It is beautifully written and I could not put the book down. PersÃ©phone has long been one of my favorite Stravinsky works and I was so pleased to finally found a work dedicated only to it - BRAVA to Dr. Levitz!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Modernist Mysteries: Persephone On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal The Surrender of Persephone (Myths Behaving Badly Book 1) Art Deco and Modernist Carpets Form & Function: American Modernist Jewelry, 1940-1970 Modernist Cuisine at Home Schoenberg and Words: The Modernist Years (Border Crossings) Modernist Cuisine at Home Spanish edition The Ethnic Avant-Garde: Minority Cultures and World Revolution (Modernist Latitudes) The Modernist Papers Intricate Thicket: Reading Late Modernist Poetries (Modern & Contemporary Poetics) The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Culture (Cambridge Companions to Culture) Digital Modernism: Making It New in New Media (Modernist Literature and Culture) Sublime Noise: Musical Culture and the Modernist Writer Pragmatic Modernism (Modernist Literature and Culture) Aphrodite's Daughters: Three Modernist Poets of the Harlem Renaissance Modernist America: Art, Music, Movies, and the Globalization of American Culture Mad Love (French Modernist Library) Play And The Politics Of Reading: The Social Uses Of Modernist Form Free Rein (French Modernist Library)

[Dmca](#)