Lou Harrison: American Composer



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Language	: English
File size	: 1520 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 168 pages
Paperback	: 30 pages
Item Weight	: 3.52 ounces
Dimensions	: 8.5 x 0.07 x 11 inches

Lou Harrison (American Composers) by Leta E. Miller





By Leta Miller

Lou Harrison (1917-2003) was one of America's most celebrated composers. His music is known for its eclecticism, its use of non-Western instruments, and its exploration of social and political issues.

Harrison was born in Portland, Oregon, and grew up in California. He began studying music at an early age, and by the time he was in his early twenties, he was composing and performing his own music. In the 1940s, Harrison traveled to Asia, where he was exposed to the music of Java and Bali. This experience had a profound influence on his music, and he began to incorporate elements of gamelan music into his own compositions. In the 1950s and 1960s, Harrison composed a number of operas, including *The Marriage at the Eiffel Tower* (1953), *Rappaccini's Daughter* (1964), and *Young Caesar* (1965). He also wrote a number of chamber pieces, including the *String Quartet No. 1* (1950) and the *Concerto for Violin and Percussion* (1959). In the 1970s, Harrison began to experiment with electronic music. He composed a number of works for tape recFree Download, including *Suite for Microphones* (1973) and *Music for the Magnetic South* (1975).

Harrison was a prolific composer, and his work encompasses a wide range of styles. He was a master of orchestration, and his music is often characterized by its rich textures and complex rhythms. Harrison was also a gifted melodist, and his music is full of memorable tunes. His music is often described as "eclectic," but it is always unified by his unique and personal voice.

Harrison was also a dedicated teacher. He taught at a number of colleges and universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He was a mentor to many young composers, and his influence can be heard in the music of many of today's leading composers.

Lou Harrison was one of the most important American composers of the twentieth century. His music is a reflection of his own unique and personal journey, and it continues to inspire and challenge listeners today.

Critical Acclaim for Leta Miller's Biography of Lou Harrison

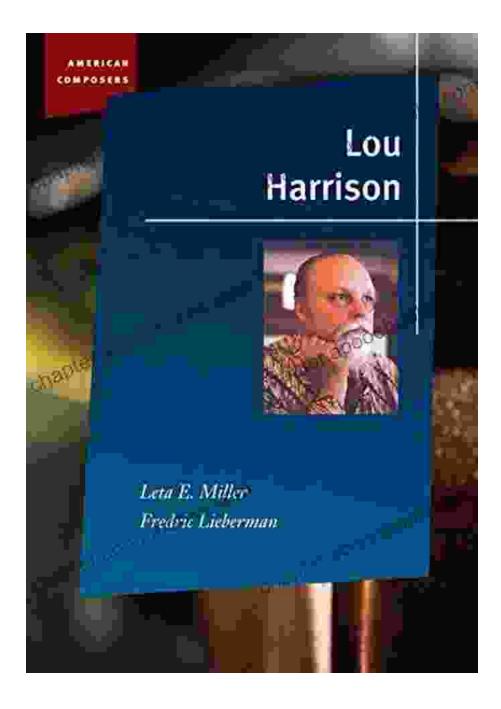
"Miller has written a definitive biography of one of America's most important composers. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the life and work of Lou Harrison." - The New York Times

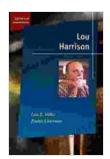
"Miller's biography is a comprehensive and insightful look at the life and work of Lou Harrison. This is a valuable addition to the literature on American music." - *The Los Angeles Times*

"Miller has done a remarkable job of capturing the essence of Lou Harrison's life and work. This is a biography that will be enjoyed by both scholars and general readers alike." - *The San Francisco Chronicle*

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