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The Ashgate Research Companion to Experimental Music

Edited by **James Saunders**, Bath Spa University, UK

'This fine collection of essays and interviews casts light on, through, and around the fabric of experimental music, woven as it is from threads first spun by John Cage in the 1950s. Whether tracing single lines or analyzing complex patterns, the authors – composers and performers, more than scholars – write with a clarity and focus that derives from decades of practical experience. Their work illuminates not only a half-century of invention but also the present and future of what has become, paradoxically, an experimental "tradition"'

– William Brooks, University of York, UK

The recent resurgence of experimental music has given rise to a more divergent range of practices than has previously been the case. The Ashgate Research Companion to Experimental Music reflects these recent developments by providing examples of current thinking and presenting detailed case studies that document the work of contemporary figures. The book examines fourteen current practitioners by interrogating their artistic practices through annotated interviews, contextualized by nine authored chapters which explore central issues that emerge from and inform these discussions. Whilst focusing on composition, the book also encompasses related aspects of performance, improvisation and sonic art. The interviews all explore how the selected artists work, focusing on the processes involved in developing their recent projects, set against more general aesthetic concerns. They aim to shed light on the disparate nature of current work whilst seeking to find possible points of contact

Contents: Foreword; Preface; PART I: Why experimental? Why me?, *Christopher Fox*; Writing, music, *Michael Pisaro*; A prescription for action, *Philip Thomas*; Open sources: words, circuits, and the notation/realization relation in live electronic music, *Ronald Kuivila*; Instrumentalizing: approaches to improvising with sounding objects in experimental music, *Andy Keep*; Free improvisation in music and capitalism: resisting authority and the cults of scientism and celebrity, *Edwin Prévost*; Beyond the soundscape: art and nature in contemporary phonography, *Will Montgomery*; Soundwalking: aural excursions into the everyday, *John Leveck Drever*; 'We have eyes as well as ears...': experimental music and the visual arts, *David Ryan*. PART II: Fourteen musicians, *James Saunders*; Antoine Beuger; Laurence Crane; Rhodri Davies; Christopher Fox; Bernhard Günter; Bryn Harrison; Philip Jeck; Alvin Lucier; Phill Niblock; Evan Parker; Tim Parkinson; Jennifer Walshe; Manfred Werder; Christian Wolff; Bibliography; Index.

Includes 34 music examples

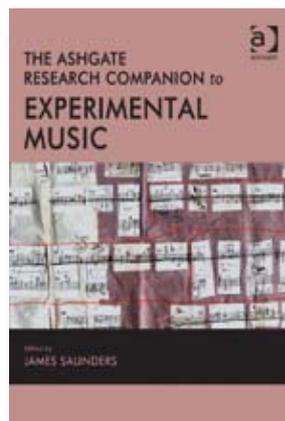
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