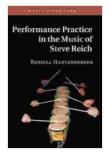
Performance Practice in the Music of Steve Reich: Music Since 1900

Steve Reich is one of the most important and influential composers of the post-war era. His music is characterized by its use of repetition, phasing, and other techniques that create a sense of hypnotic and otherworldly beauty. Reich's work has been performed by some of the world's most renowned orchestras and ensembles, and his influence can be heard in the music of many other composers.



Performance Practice in the Music of Steve Reich

(Music since 1900) by Samuel Applebaum

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Reich's music is often challenging to perform, but it is also incredibly rewarding. Performers must have a deep understanding of the composer's intentions and a willingness to experiment with different approaches. In this article, we will explore some of the key performance practices associated with Reich's music, including the use of repetition, phasing, and other techniques.

Repetition

Repetition is one of the most important elements in Reich's music. The composer often uses repeating patterns to create a sense of hypnotic and otherworldly beauty. Performers must be able to play these patterns with precision and accuracy, and they must also be able to maintain a sense of momentum and energy. This can be challenging, especially in pieces that are long and repetitive.

One of the most famous examples of Reich's use of repetition is the piece "Drumming." This piece is based on a repeating pattern of four notes, which is played over and over again by a group of percussionists. The piece is challenging to perform, but it is also incredibly hypnotic and beautiful. Performers must be able to play the pattern with precision and accuracy, and they must also be able to maintain a sense of momentum and energy for the entire piece.

Phasing

Phasing is another important technique that Reich uses in his music. Phasing occurs when two or more similar patterns are played at slightly different speeds. This creates a sense of shifting and movement, and it can be used to create a wide variety of effects. Performers must be able to control the phasing precisely, and they must also be able to maintain a sense of momentum and energy.

One of the most famous examples of Reich's use of phasing is the piece "Music for 18 Musicians." This piece is based on a repeating pattern of eight notes, which is played by a group of 18 musicians. The musicians play the pattern at slightly different speeds, which creates a sense of shifting and movement. The piece is challenging to perform, but it is also incredibly hypnotic and beautiful.

Other Techniques

In addition to repetition and phasing, Reich also uses a variety of other techniques in his music. These techniques include the use of polyrhythms, polymeters, and extended instrumental techniques. Performers must be familiar with all of these techniques, and they must be able to use them effectively in order to perform Reich's music accurately and convincingly.

One of the most important aspects of performance practice in the music of Steve Reich is the composer's intention. Reich is a very specific composer, and he has very clear ideas about how his music should be performed. Performers must be able to understand and interpret the composer's intentions, and they must be willing to experiment with different approaches in order to find the best way to perform the music.

Performance practice in the music of Steve Reich is a challenging but rewarding endeavor. Performers must have a deep understanding of the composer's intentions and a willingness to experiment with different approaches. By following the principles outlined in this article, performers can learn to perform Reich's music accurately and convincingly, and they can help to bring his music to life for audiences around the world.

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THE GUIDE FOR START-UPS ON GETTING INVESTORS TO SAY YES

ULIEBARBER

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