Understanding Post-Tonal Music
Synopsis

Understanding Post-Tonal Music explores the compositional and musical processes of twentieth-century post-tonal music. The book is intended for undergraduate or general graduate courses on the theory and analysis of twentieth-century music. The aim of the book is to increase the accessibility of post-tonal music by providing students with tools for understanding issues like pitch organization, rhythm and meter, form, texture, and aesthetics. By presenting the music first and then deriving the theory, Understanding Post-Tonal Music leads students to greater understanding and appreciation of this challenging and important repertoire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I used this text in a Post-Tonal Theory Grad course, and thought it was amazing! The wording can sometimes be a little redundant, but the analysis and musical examples are very comprehensive. I do feel that it is lacking some in the minimalism category and beyond compared to the depth of discussion on previous topics. But I do believe this was a publishing issue (I have heard from a reliable source) cutting chapters because the book was too long. I highly recommend this book to anyone studying music from the mid 20th century forward.

This is a very, very thorough textbook. It can be really wordy at times and it almost reads like a mathematics text book (which one would probably assume would be the case when you are dealing
with notes represented as integers). Lots of equations and step-by-step guides with helpful charts and examples to show you how to make these really logic connections between motives or chords. Great material and I totally recommend.

It’s a text book! That being said, it is well organized, and a great way to review post tonal music theory. It does require an understanding of music in general and of tonal music theory.

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