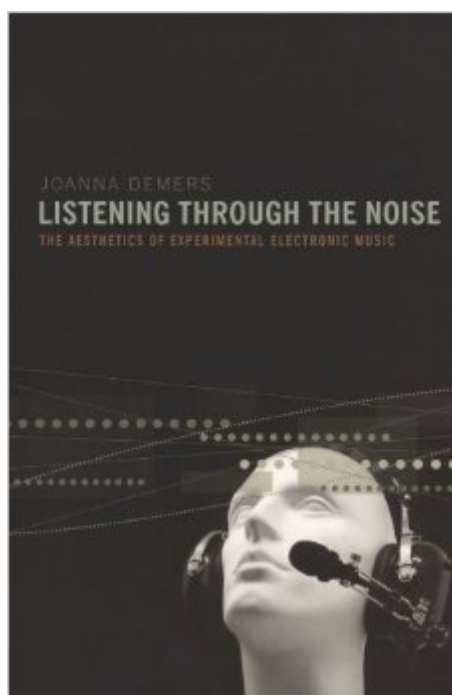# Listening Through The Noise: The Aesthetics Of Experimental Electronic Music

Synopsis

Electronic music since 1980 has splintered into a dizzying assortment of genres and subgenres, communities and subcultures. Given the ideological differences among academic, popular, and avant-garde electronic musicians, is it possible to derive an aesthetic theory that accounts for this variety? And is there even a place for aesthetics in twenty-first-century culture? This book explores genres ranging from techno to electroacoustic music, from glitch to drone music, and from dub to drones, and maintains that culturally and historically informed aesthetic theory is not only possible but indispensable for understanding electronic music. The abilities of electronic music to use preexisting sounds and to create new sounds are widely known. This book proceeds from this starting point to consider how electronic music changes the way we listen not only to music, but to sound itself. The common trait in recent experimental electronic music is a concern with whether sound, in itself, bears meaning. The use of previously undesirable materials like noise, field recordings, and extremely quiet sounds has contributed to electronic music's destruction of the "musical frame", the conventions that used to set apart music from the outside world. In the void created by the disappearance of the musical frame, different philosophies for listening have emerged. Some electronic music genres insist upon the inscrutability and abstraction of sound. Others maintain that sound functions as a sign pointing to concepts or places beyond the work. But all share an approach towards listening that departs fundamentally from the expectations that have governed music listening in the West for the previous five centuries.

Book Information

Customer Reviews

I came into this book fairly informed, so that perspective and baggage colors my impression of the book. It helps to know a bit about general 20th century music history, modern aesthetics, critical theory, and/or electronic music going into it.Demers' book is a great "connect the dots" sort of primer when dealing with this intersection of hi art, low art, philosophy and technology. In the current era, borders between academic, experimental, and popular musical styles are fluid - divisions between genres are often purely aesthetic, rather than a result of classical training or performance venue. Although it leans toward the academy, the thrust of the book is to familiarize the reader with the various rationales underpinning electronic music composition, starting with the early days of sound collages and synthesized tones.My critiques of the book are that it's quite short, and the listening resources are limited and difficult to access. It felt like there was a lot of ground uncovered in regards to the aesthetics of systems-based (algorithmic) composition and human-machine interfacing. There's some discussion on the feedback loop between the technology and the music (i.e. how different synthesizers encourage particular ways of music creation, etc), but the bulk of the discussion was on the larger aesthetic ideas and the musical outcomes, rather than specifics on the craft and processes involved. I wish it had been longer and a bit more extensive. Additionally, this is the kind of study that necessitates a thorough listening guide, and there are often multiple musical references in a single paragraph. I found myself often reading with the internet and a music streaming service open.

Download to continue reading...

Listening through the Noise: The Aesthetics of Experimental Electronic Music Drone, Glitch and Noise: Making Experimental Music on iPads and iPhones (Apptronica Music App Series Book 1) Electronic and Experimental Music: Technology, Music, and Culture Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference How to Start a Electronic Record Label: Never Revealed Secrets of Starting a Electronic Record Label (Electronic Record Label Business Guide): How to ... a Eletr Record Label: Never Revealed Secret EQing Electronic Music: Essential Tips For Producers (Making Electronic Music Book 2) The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century Listening to Music (with Introduction to Listening CD) Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America (Music/Culture) Electronic Document Preparation and Management for CSEC Study Guide: Covers latest CSEC Electronic Document Preparation and Management syllabus. Giftology: The Art and Science of Using Gifts to Cut Through the Noise, Increase Referrals, and Strengthen Retention Lies, Damned Lies, and Science: How to Sort

Through the Noise Around Global Warming, the Latest Health Claims, and Other Scientific Controversies (FT Press Science) Experimental Music Since 1970 Shake, Rattle & Turn That Noise Down!: How Elvis Shook Up Music, Me & Mom Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America Music Listening Today (with Digital Music Download Printed Access Card for the 4 CD Set) The Essential Listening to Music (with Audio CD and Music CourseMate with eBook Printed Access Card) Ib Music Revision Guide 2nd Edition: Everything You Need to Prepare for the Music Listening Examination (Standard and Higher Level 2016-2019) Listening to Salsa: Gender, Latin Popular Music, and Puerto Rican Cultures (Music/Culture) Listening in Detail: Performances of Cuban Music (Refiguring American Music)