

Genesis Of A Music Harry Partch

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Composer Photographs of Instruments Built by Harry Partch and Heard in His Recorded
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Partch - History, Theory, Performance Music, Books on Music, and Sound
Recordings Homage to Harry Partch Harry Partch The New Grove Dictionary of Music and
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visionary composer theorist and creator of musical instruments harry partch 1901 1974 was
a leading figure in the development of an indigenously american contemporary music a
pioneer in his explorations of new instruments and new tunings partch created multimedia
theater works that combine sight and sound in a compelling synthesis he is acknowledged
as a major inspiration to postwar experimental composers as diverse as györgy ligeti lou
harrison philip glass and laurie anderson and his book genesis of a music first published in
1949 is now considered a classic this book is the first to tell the complete story of partch s
life and work drawing on interviews with many of partch s associates and on the complete

archives of the harry partch estate bob gilmore provides a full and sympathetic portrait of this extraordinary creative artist he describes partch s complicated relationships with friends patrons the musical establishment and the world at large he traces partch s upbringing in the remote desert towns of the southwest his explosive encounter with formal music education in los angeles and his revolutionary course as a composer that began with an interest in the musicality of speech patterns after immersing himself in hobo subculture during the depression partch came to occupy a lonely and uncompromising position as a cultural outsider richly fascinating in themselves partch s compositions writings and life also have much to reveal about american society and the creative impulses of the artistic avant garde

offers information on the american composer musical theorist and instrument builder harry partch presented by corporeal meadows contains biographical sketches news articles discographies quotations and more

this anthology of writings about the american experimental composer harry partch is the most comprehensive collection of commentaries about the composer and his work ever assembled eleven major figures of contemporary music voice their views on partch 1901 1974 and his radical contributions to twentieth century music these include composers and theorists who worked closely with him and important comments from his contemporaries and musical inheritors

recorded between 1950 and 1967

among the few truly experimental composers in our cultural history harry partch s life 1901 1974 and music embody most completely the quintessential american rootlessness isolation pre civilized cult of experience and dichotomy of practical invention and transcendental visions having lived mostly in the remote deserts of arizona and new mexico with no access to formal training partch naturally created theatrical ritualistic works incorporating indian chants japanese kabuki and noh polynesian microtones balinese gamelan greek tragedy dance mime and sardonic commentary on hollywood and commercial pop music of modern civilization first published in 1949 genesis of a music is the manifesto of partch s radical compositional practice and instruments which owe nothing to the 300 year old european tradition of western music he contrasts abstract and corporeal music proclaiming the latter as the vital emotionally tactile form derived from the spoken word like greek chinese arabic

and Indian musics and surveys the history of world music at length from this perspective parts II III and IV explain Partch's theories of scales intonation and instrument construction with copious acoustical and mathematical documentation anyone with a musically creative attitude whether or not familiar with traditional music theory will find this book revelatory

Bitter Music collects writings by one of the twentieth century's great musical iconoclasts rejecting the equal temperament and concert traditions that have dominated Western music. Harry Partch adopted the pure intervals of just intonation and devised a 43-tone-to-the-octave scale which in turn forced him into inventing numerous musical instruments. His compositions realize his ideal of a corporeal music that unites music, dance, and theater. Winner of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, Bitter Music includes two journals kept by Partch one while wandering the West Coast during the Depression and the other as he hiked the rugged Northern California coastline. It also includes Partch's essays on and discussions of his own compositions as well as librettos and scenarios for six major narrative dramatic works.

During the Great Depression Harry Partch rode the railways following the fruit harvest across the country from his experience among hoboes he found what he called a fountainhead of pure musical Americana although he later wrote immense stage works for instruments of his own creation he is still regularly called a hobo composer for the compositions that grew out of this period of his life yet few have questioned the label's impact on his musical output. Compositional life and reception focusing on Partch the person alongside the cultural icon he represented this study examines Partch's

1942 was a pivotal year for Harry Partch after more than a decade of obscure but steadfast devotion to his unique musical vision his bold move from the idyllic isolation of California's Big Sur to the busy streets of Chicago brought him new recognition putting him before a series of audiences across the Northeast those performances were the springboard that soon catapulted him onto the stage of Carnegie Hall the pages of the New York Times and eventually secured his place in the pantheon of great 20th-century composers. Luckily one presentation of his radically new speech music was recorded at the Eastman School of Music these long lost direct-to-disc recordings reveal not only a charismatic lecturer but also a powerful performer able to transform his arcane theories into captivating music. These are the earliest recordings of this unforgettable repertoire including Partch's only solo recording of his famed *Hitchhiker* saga Barstow captured in stunningly intimate detail the Grammy

winning author traces the composer's arduous steps aided by dozens of facsimiles of his letters scores and rare photographs revealing Partch's tenacious wit dark sense of humor and above all his unfailing creative genius

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a vivid exploration of Harry Partch's visionary music instruments and identities revealing how his singular sound world challenges conventions reshapes performance conventions and continues to redefine the possibilities of musical expression Harry Partch 1901-74 stood apart in twentieth century music a visionary composer theorist and builder of over fifty visually and aurally astonishing instruments he rejected the confines of Western tuning and performance to forge an art that fused sound movement and ritual his music grew from his life which included hobo journeys explorations of alternative tunings and a fierce commitment to individuality these experiences resulted in a body of work as theatrical as it was sonically adventurous in recent decades scholarship has flourished performances and recordings have become more numerous yet Partch's legacy remains a challenge largely because his identities as composer instrument builder philosopher and provocateur resist easy categorization this collection gathers leading voices to expand present day understanding of the diverse elements that defined Partch's multiple musical identities essays trace the entanglement of his instruments with his creative vision reconsider his

sexuality and self mythologizing link his microtonal theories to both ancient greek thought and contemporary composition and examine the practical and interpretive challenges of performing his music today contributors reveal a figure whose work speaks to questions of identity community and the very purpose of musical creation richly interdisciplinary and vividly written the musical identities of harry partch history theory performance offers new perspectives for scholars performers and listeners alike and invites all to step into partch s singular sound world and discover its continuing resonance

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