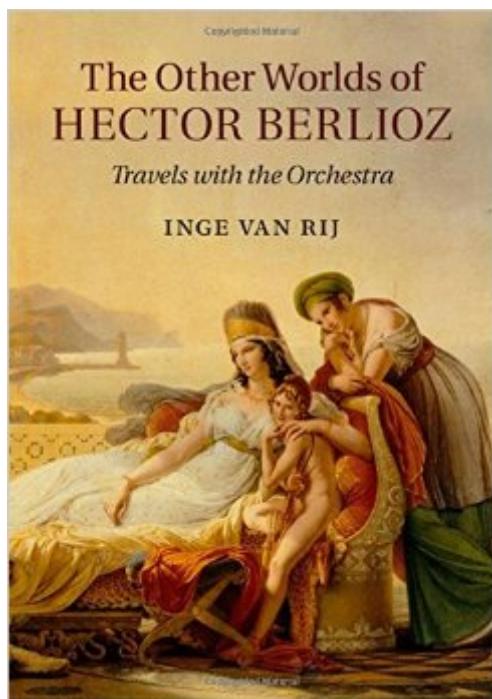


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The Other Worlds Of Hector Berlioz: Travels With The Orchestra



Synopsis

Berlioz frequently explored other worlds in his writings, from the imagined exotic enchantments of New Zealand to the rings of Saturn where Beethoven's spirit was said to reside. The settings for his musical works are more conservative, and his adventurousness has instead been located in his mastery of the orchestra, as both orchestrator and conductor. Inge van Rij's book takes a new approach to Berlioz's treatment of the orchestra by exploring the relationship between these two forms of control - the orchestra as abstract sound, and the orchestra as collective labour and instrumental technology. Van Rij reveals that the negotiation between worlds characteristic of Berlioz's writings also plays out in his music: orchestral technology may be concealed or ostentatiously displayed; musical instruments might be industrialised or exoticised; and the orchestral musicians themselves move between being a society of distinctive individuals and being a machine played by Berlioz himself.

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Customer Reviews

The negotiation between worlds that is characteristic of Berlioz's writings also plays out in his music. Inge van Rij's book combines historical, critical and analytical approaches to a selection of key works by the composer to offer new ways of thinking about the sights and sounds of the orchestra.

Inge van Rij is a Senior Lecturer in Musicology at the New Zealand School of Music. Her first book, Brahms's Song Collections, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2006, having received

substantial funding from a Marsden Grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand. She is a regular presenter at international conferences, including both the American Musicological Society and the Society for Ethnomusicology.

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