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978-0-521-02695-6 - The Music of Toru Takemitsu  
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## The Music of Tōru Takemitsu

Tōru Takemitsu (1930–96) was the best known Japanese composer of his generation, bringing aspects of Eastern and Western traditions together, yet he remained something of an elusive figure. The composer's own commentaries about his music, poetic and philosophical in tone, have tended to deepen the mystery and much writing on Takemitsu to date has adopted a similar attitude, leaving many questions about his compositional methods unanswered. This book is the first complete study of the composer's work to appear in English. It is also the first book in this language to offer an in-depth analysis of his music. Takemitsu's works are increasingly popular with Western audiences and Peter Burt attempts for the first time to shed light on the hitherto rather secretive world of his working methods, as well as place him in context as heir to the rich tradition of Japanese composition in the twentieth century.

PETER BURT is Vice-Chairman of the Takemitsu Society in the United Kingdom and editor of the Takemitsu Society Newsletter. He is currently editing a special commemorative issue of *Contemporary Music Review* devoted to Tōru Takemitsu.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo  
  
Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK  
  
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York  
  
[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521782203](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521782203)

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First published 2001  
Reprinted 2003  
This digitally printed first paperback version 2006

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Burt, Peter, 1955–  
The music of Tōru Takemitsu / Peter Burt.  
p. cm. – (Music in the twentieth century)  
Includes bibliographical references (p. ) and index.  
ISBN 0 521 78220 1  
1. Takemitsu, Tōru – Criticism and interpretation. I. Title. II. Series.  
ML410.T134 B87 2001  
780'.92–dc21 00-045505

ISBN-13 978-0-521-78220-3 hardback  
ISBN-10 0-521-78220-1 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02695-6 paperback  
ISBN-10 0-521-02695-4 paperback

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*for Sumine*

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## Acknowledgements

So many have helped me in some way or another over the course of the seven years that I have been working on Takemitsu's music that there are bound to be some omissions in the list of names that follow. In particular in Japan, where fabulous largesse seems to be a cultural norm, I have received such generous assistance from so many people that I am certain to have forgotten to mention one or two here, and I apologise in advance to anyone who feels they have been left out.

Although wholly rewritten, this book has its origins in my doctoral thesis, and in the first place thanks are therefore due to my supervisor, Peter Manning, and other members of the music department staff at Durham University who assisted me in various ways – in particular my benefactor Michael Spitzer, who offered magnanimous hospitality whenever I needed to seek shelter in Durham during my two years of exile in London. Thanks are also due to Professor Manning for his assistance in procuring me two valuable scholarships – from the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, and the Gen Foundation – and of course to the staff of those institutions themselves for enabling me to make the two trips to Japan without which my knowledge of Takemitsu would have remained vague and incomplete indeed.

In Japan, my sincere appreciation is due to the former Principal of Kunitachi College of Music, Dr Bin Ebisawa, as well as staff members Cornelia Colyer and Hitoshi Matsushita, the librarian, for providing me with such a royal welcome during the disorientating early days of my first visit. I would also particularly like to thank the fellow researchers in my chosen field who have been so generous in sharing with me the fruits of their knowledge: Yōko Narazaki, Noriko Ohtake and above all Mitsuko Ono, a sort of walking encyclopaedia on Takemitsu who has been of invaluable help in correcting my many factual errors. Further gratitude is due especially to the flautist Hideyo Takakawa for introducing me to his teacher Mr Hiroshi Koizumi, and to him in turn for first introducing me to the composer's widow Mrs Asaka Takemitsu and daughter Maki. I would also like to thank the composer Mr Jōji Yuasa for granting me the time to interview him about his early years with Takemitsu in the *Jikken Kōbō*, and Fr. Joaquim Benitez of Elisabeth University, Hiroshima, who kindly agreed to meet me in London and look over my thesis three years ago. Takebumi

Itagaki, Kiyonori Sokabe, Masato Hōjō and Yūji Numano have also all been of invaluable assistance, and above all, perhaps, I must express my deepest gratitude to Ms Sumine Hayashibara and her mother Kiku on the one hand, and Ms Emiko Kitazawa and her mother Etsuko on the other, without whose offers of hospitality on, respectively, my first and second visits to Japan I would have been unable to come here at all.

I must also mention here my friend Junko Kobayashi, Chairman of the Takemitsu Society in London, who has been so helpful in checking over Japanese proper nouns with me; as well as Sally Groves of Schott's and her Tōkyō counterpart, Nanako Ikefuji, for lending me scores of Takemitsu's music. And finally, I must thank the music books' Editor of Cambridge University Press, Penny Souster, for having sufficient faith in the potential of my thesis to undertake a book on Takemitsu. I hope what follows will in some small measure repay the trust she has invested in me.

Tōkyō, July 2000

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**Note on conventions**

Throughout this book, Japanese personal names are rendered according to the Western rather than Japanese convention, in which the family name follows the given name (Tōru Takemitsu, *not* Takemitsu Tōru). Transliteration of Japanese words follows the Hepburn system, and in the interests of consistency – albeit at the risk of appearing pretentious – this has been applied even to words generally given in English without diacritical marks (Tōkyō, Ōsaka, etc.).