Messiaen Studies

The French composer Olivier Messiaen is one of the major figures of twentieth-century music. This collection of scholarly essays offers new cultural, historical, biographical and analytical perspectives on Messiaen’s musical œuvre from 1941 to 1992. The volume includes: a fascinating snapshot of Messiaen’s life in occupied France; a study of the Surrealist poetics of Messiaen’s song cycle Harawi; a chapter on Messiaen’s iconoclastic path to the avant-garde heritage that he bequeathed to his pupils; discussion on Messiaen’s place in twentieth-century music; and detailed analysis of specific works, including his opera Saint François d’Assise. The chapters provide fresh insights on the origins, style and poetics of Messiaen’s music, and therefore provide an inspiration and foundation for future scholarship. Reflecting and expanding upon the broad range of Messiaen’s own interdisciplinary interests, the book will be of interest to students and scholars of music, art, literature and theology.

ROBERT SHOLL is Reader in Music at Thames Valley University, and also lectures at King’s College London. His research examines the aesthetic and iconographical inspirations behind Messiaen’s music, and the ways in which contemporary spiritual music engages with other discourses. Robert is a member of the ‘Theology through the Arts’ research project at the University of Cambridge and St Andrews, and is a founding co-editor of oliviermessiaen.net. As an organist, he has given recitals at major European venues (including St Paul’s Cathedral, La Madeleine and Notre-Dame de Paris), and has performed most of Messiaen’s organ music.
Frontispiece: From Messiaen's *Amour oiseaux d'étoile (Harawi)*
MESSIAEN STUDIES

EDITED BY

Robert Sholl
Felix Aprahamian in Memoriam (1914–2005)
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Acknowledgements

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