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978-1-107-00914-1 - The Musical Work of Nadia Boulanger: Performing Past and Future Between the Wars

Jeanice Brooks

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THE MUSICAL WORK OF NADIA BOULANGER

Nadia Boulanger – composer, critic, impresario, and the most famous composition teacher of the twentieth century – was also a performer of international repute. Her concerts and recordings introduced audiences on both sides of the Atlantic to unfamiliar historical works and new compositions. This book considers how gender shaped the possibilities that marked Boulanger's performing career, tracing her meteoric rise as a conductor in the 1930s to origins in the classroom and the salon. Brooks investigates Boulanger's promotion of structurally motivated performance styles, showing how her ideas on performance of historical repertory and new music relate to her teaching of music analysis and music history. The book explores the way in which Boulanger's musical practice relied upon her understanding of the historically transcendent masterwork, in which musical form and meaning are ideally joined, and show how her ideas related to broader currents in French aesthetics and culture.

JEANICE BROOKS is Professor of Music at the University of Southampton. She has published extensively on French music and culture of the Renaissance and on domestic music-making in Britain around 1800, as well as on French musical culture between the wars. Her book on the strophic *air de cour* and court culture, *Courtly Song in Late Sixteenth-Century France* (2000) received the 2001 Roland H. Bainton Prize for the Best Book of the Year in Music or Art History.

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For Amelia

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Abbreviations

To save space in references to archival documents such as personal correspondence and diaries, I have abbreviated Boulanger’s name as NB in the notes. I indicate locations for primary source material with the abbreviations below. Where possible, I have followed standard usage as represented in the *Repertoire international de sources musicales* and the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*.

<i>Ch-Bps</i>	Basel, Paul Sacher Stiftung, Bibliothek
CNLB	Paris, Centre Internationale Nadia et Lili Boulanger
<i>F-LYc</i>	Lyon, Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse
<i>F-Pn</i>	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France
<i>GB-CaBBC</i>	Caversham, UK, BBC Written Archives
<i>GB-Lbl</i>	London, British Library
HUA	Cambridge, Pusey Library, Harvard University Archive
<i>MM</i>	<i>Le Monde musical</i>
NLa	Nouvelles lettres autographes
<i>ReM</i>	<i>La Revue musicale</i>
<i>US-Wc</i>	Washington, DC, Library of Congress

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