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A Theory of Harmony

The British composer John Stainer (1840-1901) was organist at St Paul's Cathedral from 1872 to 1888, and in 1889 became Professor of Music at Oxford. In this third edition of *A Theory of Harmony* he ceased to call it a theory founded on the tempered scale, as he previously. He wrote in the Preface that he now believed the theory to be perfectly applicable to the system of just intonation. A further reason, in his view, was that the attitude of scientific men toward modern chromatic music had recently improved, as they could see that their system would never be adopted as long as it threatened the existence of a single masterpiece of musical literature. However, the system would be accepted when it rendered such works capable of more perfect performance. This influential Victorian textbook is now reissued for the benefit of those interested in nineteenth-century composition and analysis.

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A Theory of Harmony

*With Questions and Exercises for the Use of
Students*

JOHN STAINER



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A

THEORY OF HARMONY

WITH

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES FOR THE USE OF
STUDENTS,

BY

JOHN STAINER, MUS. DOC., M.A.,
MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD,
ORGANIST OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

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DEDICATED
TO
PROFESSOR MAX MÜLLER,
WHO,
THOUGH UNABLE TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE
ART OF MUSIC
OWING TO THE CLAIMS MADE ON HIS TIME BY
OTHER FIELDS OF LABOUR,
FORGETS NOT TO ENCOURAGE BY HIS SYMPATHY AND KINDNESS
THOSE WHO ARE PRESSING FORWARD
IN ITS PATHS.

P R E F A C E .

FOR the encouragement to my little work which renders a third issue necessary, I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks.

I have ceased to call it a Theory founded on the Tempered Scale for two reasons: 1st, Because I believe it will be found perfectly applicable to the system of just intonation; 2nd, Because the attitude of scientific men to modern chromatic music has ceased to be that of hostility, inasmuch as they see that their system will never be adopted as long as it threatens the existence of a single masterpiece in musical literature, while, on the other hand, it will be universally accepted when it renders such works capable of more perfect performance.

As I heartily wish for this consummation, it is unnecessary for me to reprint the two polemical prefaces to former editions.

J. S.

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