



## Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music)

By Jean-Philippe Rameau

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**Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music)** By Jean-Philippe Rameau

The *Traité de l'harmonie* of Jen-Philippe Rameau is one of the most important books in the history of Western music. Written while Rameau was still a relatively obscure organist and music master at Clermont-Ferrand, the book received but one printing during Rameau's life, in 1722, shortly before he settled in Paris. The *Traité* was immediately recognized as a profound advance in musical theory, however, and it established Rameau's reputation as a theorist. His book was the first to codify those principles of tonality that were to dominate the music of the West for almost two centuries. Even today the theories of Rameau remain the basis for the study of harmony.

Rameau's *Traité de l'harmonie* is divided into four books, the first of which presents the mathematical basis from which Rameau sought to derive his theories. Book Two may be considered the most important section of the *Traité*; in it Rameau generates his entire harmonic system from fundamental principles, explaining intervals, chords, and modes — everything, in fact, essential to musical composition in tonal style. Working from the principles developed in Books One and Two, Book Three treats the practical rules of composition, including such topics as harmonic modulation and chord progressions. Book Four concerns the practical art of accompaniment on harpsichord or organ, including the realization of a figured bass. Corrections added by Rameau in a supplement are included in the text, and all the musical examples have been reset in modern musical notation. In addition, two pages from a unique copy of the first issue of the first edition are given in facsimile. The translator's introduction discusses the history of the work, Rameau's mathematics, and his place in the history of music theory.

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## Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music) By Jean-Philippe Rameau Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #966666 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-05-01
- Released on: 2012-05-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### **Editorial Review**

Language Notes

Text: English, French (translation)

About the Author

Philip Gossett is the Robert W. Reneker Distinguished Service Professor in Music and the College at the University of Chicago. He is the general editor of "The Works of Giuseppe Verdi," published by the University of Chicago Press and Casa Ricordi, and "The Works of Gioachino Rossini," In 2004 he received one of four lifetime achievement awards given by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and in 1998 he received the Cavaliere di Gran Croce, the highest civilian award given by the Italian government.

### **Users Review**

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**Christina Love:**

The knowledge that you get from Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music) is the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music) giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific Treatise on Harmony (Dover Books on Music) instantly.

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