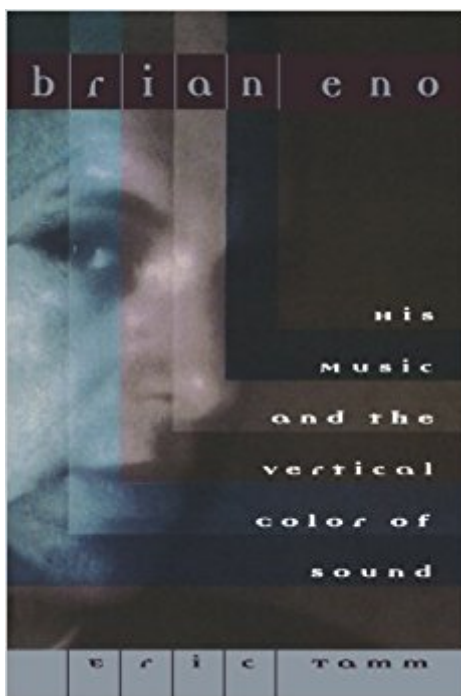


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Brian Eno: His Music And The Vertical Color Of Sound



Synopsis

Musician, composer, producer: Brian Eno is unique in contemporary music. Best known in recent years for producing U2's sensational albums, Eno began his career as a synthesizer player for Roxy Music. He has since released many solo albums, both rock and ambient, written music for film and television soundtracks, and collaborated with David Bowie, David Byrne, Robert Fripp, and classical and experimental composers. His pioneering ambient sound has been enormously influential, and without him today's rock would have a decidedly different sound. Drawing on Eno's own words to examine his influences and ideas, this book featuring a new afterword and an updated discography and bibliography will long remain provocative and definitive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sorry, I haven't read it yet. But I thought potential buyers might want to know that this book and the same author's book on Robert Fripp are both available for free download from the author's web site. An act of generosity that certainly deserves five stars.

Most of the writing on music that is non-Classical or non-Jazz is done by hacks who just happened to buy enough albums as kids and have enough of a vocabulary to get jobs with music magazines. They possess no real knowledge of music outside of their own highly subjective and fickle opinions. No matter how much they seem to know they are still just fashion designers for the industry. In this

case we have a serious "rock" musician taken seriously and analyzed seriously by a serious musicologist. The author demonstrates a knowledge of music outside of the pop/rock world and places Eno in this context. Short on biography, long on theory, this is a truly intelligent foray into the music of Brian Eno and is a shining example of what rock journalism could be. Alas, very few examples of "rock" musicians approach Eno in their worthiness of analysis.

Since very little is known of Eno's private life, this book takes a pretty good and professional look at his composing life, starting with Roxy Music and up to about 1990. The most interesting aspects are the clear explanations of Eno's techniques and concepts. I found many of the ideas and thoughts applicable to other art forms, and am using some of the ideas for work of my own now. Be warned that the book does assume the reader has a certain level of understanding of music theory and contemporary music, but there is still much to enjoy if you are a newcomer to these ideas.

This book explores the music of Brian Eno from the perspective of a serious writer who is capable of giving the artist and his work proper context. Eric Tamm reveals Eno's place in popular and serious music from his early inspirations to how he has inspired so many others to this day. I became aware of Eno through his work with Roxy Music and followed his career onward. Tamm has documented his path with lots of references that are familiar as well as others which are new to me. The book is reminiscent and educational simultaneously. This book informatively reinforces and expands one's admiration for the works of Brian Eno.

I'd recommend this mostly for music students or anyone who wants to understand the diverse and interesting musical world of the 80s better. I like the way it talks about Eno; it's academic but not soulless, and the author loves the material but doesn't fangirl too hard. That's a bonus. On the negs, well, it's intricate. I wouldn't call that a bad thing, but I can't say it's a good 'light read'. Over all, though, I'd recommend it; it also got me to seek out Eno and think about music differently, and those are good things.

Though this book is written more from a technical perspective, it provides interesting insights into the fertile, creative mind of Brian Eno. I would not recommend this book to anyone who doesn't have interest in musicology or the technical nature of music creation. However, for those who are interested, feast away.

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