

BIOGRAPHY

**Julian Johnson**

Julian Johnson is currently Professor of Music at Royal Holloway, University of London. He trained originally as a horn player and was an active composer for many years before concentrating on academic research and teaching in musicology. The author of four books, he has published widely on music from Beethoven to contemporary composers, and has been closely involved with the educational work of a number of orchestras, opera companies and music festivals.



NEW IN PAPERBACK

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*Cultural Choice and Musical Value*

**Julian Johnson**, Royal Holloway, University of London



During the last few decades, most cultural critics have come to agree that the division between 'high' and 'low' art is an artificial one, that Beethoven's Ninth and 'Blue Suede Shoes' are equally valuable as cultural texts. In *Who Needs Classical Music?*, Julian Johnson challenges these assumptions about the relativism of cultural judgments. The author maintains that music is more than just 'a matter of taste': while some music provides entertainment, or serves as background noise, other music claims to function as art. This book considers the value of classical music in contemporary society, arguing that it remains distinctive because it works in quite different ways to most of the other music that surrounds us. This intellectually sophisticated yet accessible book offers a new and balanced defence of the specific values of classical music in contemporary culture. The paperback edition includes a new preface from the author, re-contextualizing the debate ten years out.

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**Joseph N. Straus**, CUNY Graduate Center

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December 2011 | 224 pages | OUP USA

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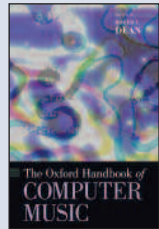
Edited by Roger T. Dean, University of Western Sydney

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Edited by Jane Fulcher, University of Michigan

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