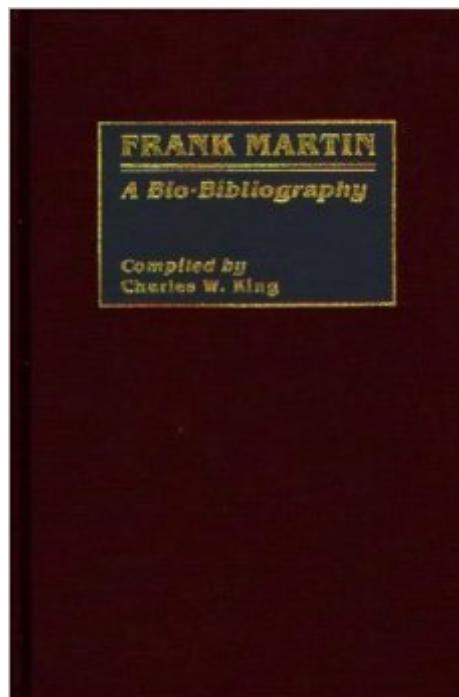


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Frank Martin: A Bio-Bibliography (Bio-Bibliographies In Music)



Synopsis

Appropriately, this work written on the year of the 100th birthday of Frank Martin, is the first English language resource dealing with work by and about the Swiss composer. Charles King provides access to a great deal of critical substantive writing about Martin's work and to the considerable body of writing by the composer himself. Many of the most important writings, derived from articles, lectures, letters, program notes and interviews, are now collected into several monographs in French with some parts in English and German, all of which have been indexed here.

Comprehensive coverage is given to articles in English, and excellent work written in German, French, Dutch, and Italian has been highlighted also. The volume consists of a biography of Martin, a cataloging of the composer's works and performances, and a 229-item discography followed by two separate bibliographies that list writings by and about Martin. Two appendixes and an index complete the work. As the only comprehensive introduction in English to Frank Martin and his work, this reference will assist future researchers and stimulate the interest and curiosity of others to learn more of this composer's life and work.

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Customer Reviews

The great Swiss composer Frank Martin (1890-1974) left a durable legacy of fine compositions, among which the best known include orchestral works like the "Petite Symphonie Concertante" and

the "Concerto for 7 Wind Instruments," chamber works like the "Trio on Irish Folk Tunes," the "4 Short Pieces for Guitar" and the "Ballade for Flute," the song-cycle "6 Monologe aus Jedermann" and above all his religious works, including the oratorios "In Terra Pax" and "Golgotha" and the frequently recorded early "Mass for Double Choir." He also wrote with great insight and clarity about music and composing, although unfortunately much of this legacy remains untranslated into English. This Bio-Bibliography, compiled by Charles W. King, is an indispensable resource for information on Martin's music. It begins with a brief (4 1/2 page) biography, which manages to synthesize an impressive amount of information, and contains both a chronological list of compositions and a work-by-work discography, up to 1990 (the latter now happily outdated, as many new recordings, including ones of previously unavailable works, continue to appear). Most valuable of all are the list of writings by Martin and the bibliography, which between them provide summaries of over 400 texts in various languages. Even if you're not planning to use this book as a springboard for further research, you'll find plenty to stimulate you here - who know (for instance) that 2 American composers, Henry Cowell and Virgil Thomson, both wrote enthusiastic reviews of "Golgotha"? There are inevitably a few errors and mis-translations here and there, but these are insignificant in the light of this volume's immense value. For those who already love and admire Martin's music, a must.

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