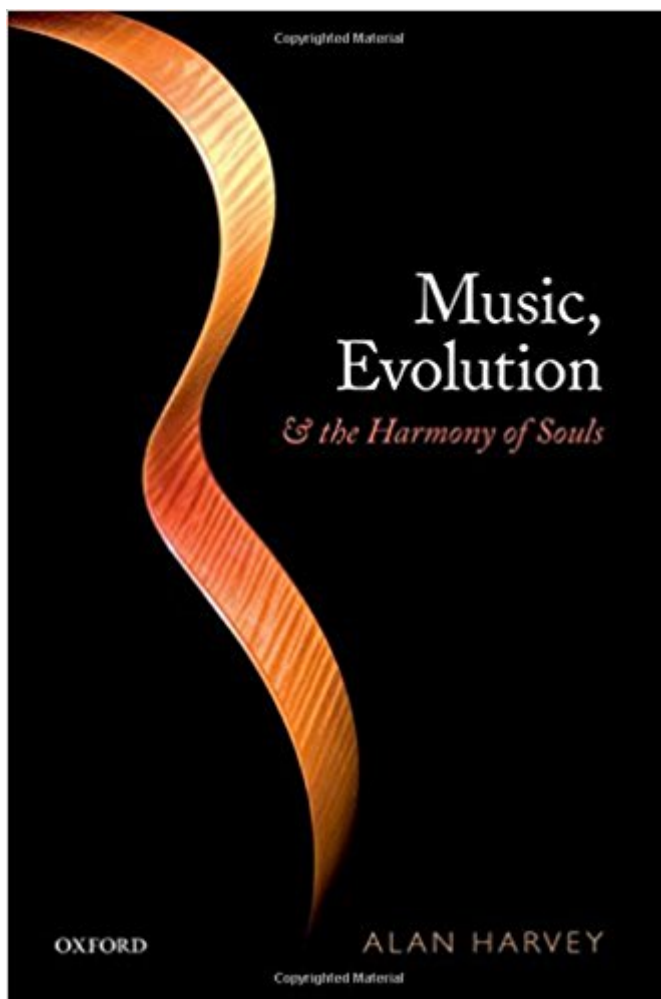


The book was found

Music, Evolution, And The Harmony Of The Souls



Synopsis

Music is central to human cultural and intellectual experience. It is vitally important for the welfare of human society and - this book argues - should become more widely accepted in our community as a mainstream educational and therapeutic tool. This book explores the importance of music throughout human evolution, and its continued relevance to modern-day human society.

Throughout, the emphasis is on the origin of music and how (and where) it is processed in our brains, exploring in detail the genetic and cultural evolution of modern, loquacious humans, how we may have evolved with unique neural and cognitive architecture, and why two complementary but distinct communication systems - language and music - remain a human universal. In addition the book explores, in some depth, the different theories that have been put forward to explain why musical communication was (and remains) advantageous to our species, with a particular emphasis on the role of music and dance in enhancing altruistic and prosocial behaviours. The author suggests that music, and the social harmonization it brings, was of vital importance in early humans as we became more and more individualized by the emergence of modern language and the modern mind, and the realization that we are mortal. 'Music, Evolution, and the Harmony of the Souls' demonstrates the evolutionary sociobiological importance of music as a driver of cooperative and interactive behaviour throughout human existence, and what this evolutionary imperative means to twenty-first century humanity and beyond, from social and medical/neurological perspectives

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Customer Reviews

Harvey says, To quote my colleagues, music is perhaps the most important thing we ever did. He demonstrates that profoundly and irrefutably from a scientific perspective in this extraordinary book.

* Mandy Stefanakis, Music Trust E-Zine * Harvey builds his arguments clearly with a call to action, highlighting the need for public policy to reflect that music is essential for our psychological health and the social well-being of humanity. * - Angus McPherson, Limelight Magazine *

Alan R. Harvey, Emeritus Professor, The University of Western Australia Born in London, educated at Forest School, then Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. PhD in visual neurophysiology, Australian National University, Canberra. After postdoctoral work in the USA and at Flinders University in South Australia, moved to The University of Western Australia in 1984. Now Emeritus Professor in the School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology. Main experimental laboratory interests are in neural development, neurotrauma and neurotherapy, the research primarily focused on the CNS, with an emphasis on the visual system and spinal cord. Also passionate about music and over the past 45 years or so has sung in numerous choirs and played many concerts as a solo artist or as a member of various folk or rock bands. Has contributed to a number of recordings/CDs. Currently sings with Perth Symphonic Chorus and recently travelled to Singapore and to Carnegie Hall in New York to sing with the choir.

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