



The Languages of Western Tonality (Hardback)

By Eytan Agmon

Springer-Verlag Berlin and Heidelberg GmbH Co. KG, Germany, 2013. Hardback. Condition: New. 2013 ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Tonal music, from a historical perspective, is far from homogenous; yet an enduring feature is a background diatonic system of exactly seven notes orderable cyclically by fifth. What is the source of the durability of the diatonic system, the octave of which is representable in terms of two particular integers, namely 12 and 7? And how is this durability consistent with the equally remarkable variety of musical styles - or languages - that the history of Western tonal music has taught us exist? This book is an attempt to answer these questions. Using mathematical tools to describe and explain the Western musical system as a highly sophisticated communication system, this theoretical, historical, and cognitive study is unprecedented in scope and depth. The author engages in intense dialogue with 1000 years of music-theoretical thinking, offering answers to some of the most enduring questions concerning Western tonality. The book is divided into two main parts, both governed by the communicative premise. Part I studies proto-tonality, the background system of notes prior to the selection of a privileged note...



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