THE MUSIC OF HARRY FREEDMAN

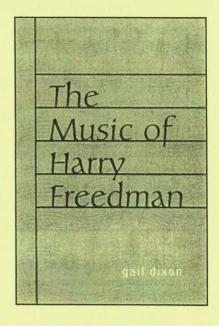
GAIL DIXON

Harry Freedman has been an important and respected figure in Canadian music for over half a century, and his output as a composer has been both prodigious and eclectic. Born in Poland in 1922 and raised in Winnipeg, Freedman studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music and played English horn with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He resigned in 1970 to become the orchestra's first composer-in-residence, and has created some 175 works in a wide variety of genres including symphonies, concertos, string quartets, operas, ballets, film scores, popular songs, and jazz pieces.

In *The Music of Harry Freedman*, Gail Dixon investigates Freedman's music with a view to illuminating its underlying principles, stylistic development, and means of coherence. Representative works from Freedman's oeuvre have been selected for detailed analysis. The chronological presentation of these works facilitates a clear understanding of Freedman's compositional style in its dramatic evolution from the tentative serial explorations of his early works to the eclectic stylistic spectrum of his later years. The analytic discussion is supplemented by a large number of musical examples, as well as compositional sketches and working notes, some in the composer's own hand. Numerous interviews with Freedman yield additional insights into his approach and perspective. Dixon does a great service to Canadian culture with this analytic study of the music of a celebrated twentieth-century figure.

Gail Dixon is a professor emeritus in the Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario.

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'In The Music of Harry Freedman, Gail Dixon succeeds in describing and analyzing Freedman's music by concentrating not on its external inspiration but, as she puts it, on the music "in and of itself." I have followed Freedman's work for a long time, but Dixon's descriptions and analyses made me eager to hear some of the works I did not know. She has benefited from access to the composer's sketches, and her final chapter about his working processes gives a remarkable picture of the inner creative life of a remarkable artist.'

- John Beckwith, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto

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