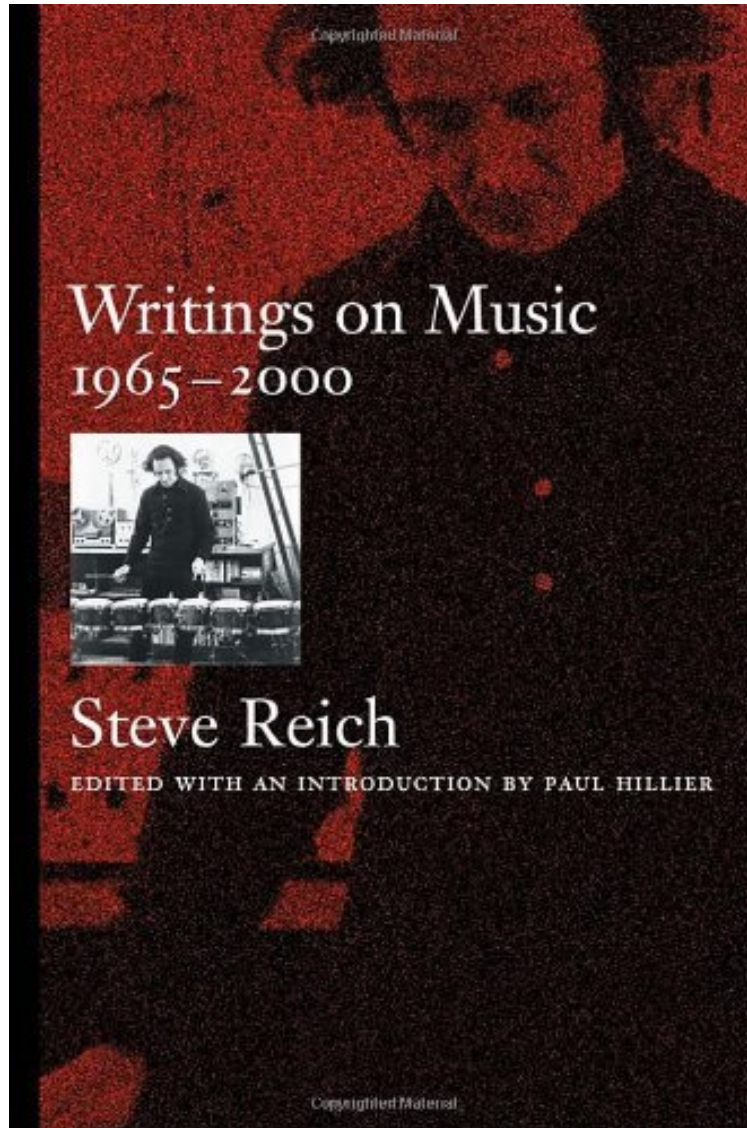


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## Writings on Music, 1965-2000

*Steve Reich*

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**Steve Reich : Writings on Music, 1965-2000** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writings on Music, 1965-2000:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Essential By Jorge Rangel This is a must read for anyone seriously interested in music. Reich's legacy can be felt in younger composers like Marc Mellits and Nico Muhly. But his influence has broken the barriers of the classical music and it can be felt in the work of popular artists such as Radiohead, The Orb, Aphex Twin and Sufjan Stevens. Reich's writing is sincere and non-pretentious. It's also economical and extremely easy to read even for the musically illiterate and his essays offer a glimpse of his creative

process, one that transforms and twists the tradition but, finally, respecting it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. interestingBy Tim RisherInteresting to read what Steve Reich has to say about his works, even in his own terse, non-florid way. This book is a collection of mainly program notes and transcriptions of short interviews he has given. As a result, it tends to get a bit repetitive, which I guess is appropriate! I also wish it would be updated. That wouldn't be so difficult. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Christopher R AcquavellaExcellent insight into his early works. Highly recommended reading. Inclusion of scores and performance descriptions were especially nice addition to this book.

In the mid-1960s, Steve Reich radically renewed the musical landscape with a back-to-basics sound that came to be called Minimalism. These early works, characterized by a relentless pulse and static harmony, focused single-mindedly on the process of gradual rhythmic change. Throughout his career, Reich has continued to reinvigorate the music world, drawing from a wide array of classical, popular, sacred, and non-western idioms. His works reflect the steady evolution of an original musical mind. *Writings on Music* documents the creative journey of this thoughtful, groundbreaking composer. These 64 short pieces include Reich's 1968 essay "Music as a Gradual Process," widely considered one of the most influential pieces of music theory in the second half of the 20th century. Subsequent essays, articles, and interviews treat Reich's early work with tape and phase shifting, showing its development into more recent work with speech melody and instrumental music. Other essays recount his exposure to non-western music--African drumming, Balinese gamelan, Hebrew cantillation--and the influence of these musics as structures and not as sounds. The writings include Reich's reactions to and appreciations of the works of his contemporaries (John Cage, Luciano Berio, Morton Feldman, Gyorgy Ligeti) and older influences (Kurt Weill, Schoenberg). Each major work of the composer's career is also explored through notes written for performances and recordings. Paul Hillier, himself a respected figure in the early music and new music worlds, has revisited these texts, working with the author to clarify their central narrative: the aesthetic and intellectual development of an influential composer. For long-time listeners and young musicians recently introduced to his work, this book provides an opportunity to get to know Reich's music in greater depth and perspective.