

Rudolf E. Radocy and J. David Boyle.
PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MUSICAL BEHAVIOR.
Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1979.
349 pp. \$25.99.

This book is designed primarily for use as a textbook for undergraduate and graduate courses. It provides the reader with a comprehensive overview of human musical behaviour as viewed from a psychological perspective. Musical behaviour includes performance, listening, and creative activity involved in composition. The study of musical behaviour thus necessarily includes related cognitive and perceptual processes. That which people *do* with music is musical behaviour; so, too, is that which music *does* to people.

An understanding of human musical behaviour has utility for the musician in the studio, on the stage, in the classroom, or in a commercial setting. Why are there preferences for certain sounds? What psychological processes underlie musical perception? Is there a physical basis for musical taste? Are some individuals "naturally" musical? Although this book does not promise definitive answers, the information provided can focus relevant inquiry.

The traditional domains of the psychology of music include psychoacoustics, measurement and prediction of musical ability, functional music, cultural organization of musical patterns, music learning, and the affective response to music. A glance at the Contents indicates that these traditional domains have suggested relevant chapters; in addition, attention has been given to the psychological foundations of rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical preferences.

Some of the outstanding features of this book are the clear, precise, easy-to-read format employed by the authors, the summary section at the conclusion of each chapter to highlight the major points, and an excellent bibliography of references. With such a wide variety of topics being presented, no author or publisher could be expected to deal with each topic in any great depth. However, the authors have frequently referred the reader to additional sources so that any reader could readily pursue the various topics in a great deal of depth.

The authors have taken pains to produce an up-to-date text, one that is both comprehensive and comprehensible. Many references are contemporary. The book is highly recommended for its intended purpose.

Roger Cook
McGill University