

An exercise in humanity

# At Home in Music

ALICJA GESCINSKA

Does music enrich humanity and society? Over time, philosophers have considered this question with a great deal of scepticism. Plato warned that music can bring about dangerous changes in society. Centuries later, Adorno pointed to the damaging power of jazz, which he thought would turn us into acquiescent citizens.

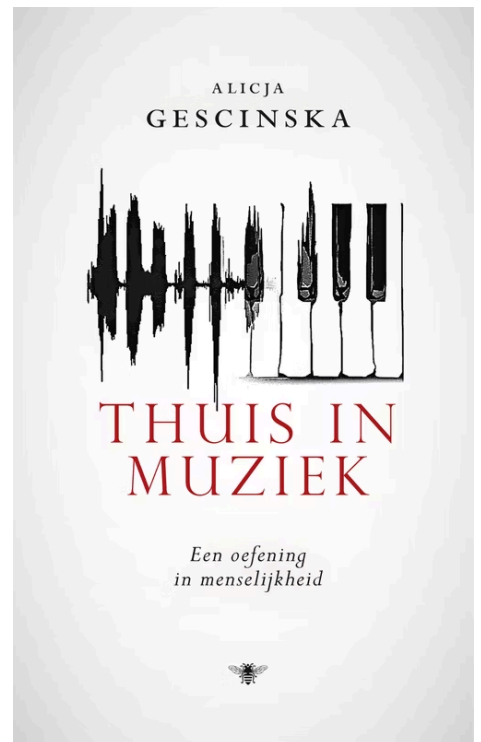
**A philosophical quest that has resulted in a beautiful and concise little book. Every sentence counts.**

NRC HANDELSBLAD

Alicja Gescinska is convinced that music is more uplifting than it is pernicious. It can play an important part in our personal and moral development. This is something we often lose sight of these days. Music has all but disappeared from education, and in daily life we see it mainly as a source of relaxation, distraction or consolation. In this lucid essay Gescinska demonstrates that music is a foundation of our lives rather than mere ornamentation. Music allows us to come home to ourselves and creates a home for us in the world.

**Love for music, captured in gently flowing sentences.**

DE STANDAARD



## AUTHOR



**Alicja Gescinska** (b. 1981) is one of the leading young philosophers in Belgium and the Netherlands. Her book 'De verovering van de vrijheid' (The Conquest of Freedom, 2011) drew much praise. Her debut novel 'Een soort van liefde' (A Kind of Love, 2016) won her the Debuutprijs 2017 and earned her a nomination for the Confituur Boekhandelsprijs. She has also presented the philosophical television programme 'Wanderlust', featuring philosophical conversations with internationally renowned philosophers, writers, scientists and artists. 'At Home in Music' was nominated for the Socratesbeker 2019. Photo © Koen Broos

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