

Swinging music history for dummies

How Green does a Guitar Sound?

YULE HERMANS & PIETER BERGÉ

The hundred short chapters of 'How Green does a Guitar Sound?' tell you all there is to know about classical music – about musical genres, famous composers and exceptional pieces of music, some more famous than others. You discover how many works Mozart composed, the difference between an opera and an operetta, which piece of music goes on for ever, what strange instructions Erik Satie noted above his scores and why John Cage put microphones on a lettuce or made the spines of a cactus vibrate.

Each chapter consists of a history section and listening tips, all in support of the main aim: to encourage the reader to go and listen to all this beautiful music. To that end, Pieter Bergé has added two Spotify lists that directly illustrate the explanations in the book.

Bergé manages to touch upon a surprising number of topics, and always in a playful manner.

HET PAROOL

The delicate pencil drawings by Yule Hermans make the text light and transparent. On each page the illustrator condenses the text into a single image. Hermans has chosen a different colour to denote each musical period, helping readers to find their way around the periods covered. The design of the book is such that you can decide in what order to read it, the idea being that you can discover all musical eras simultaneously and lose yourself in them.

The illustrations are real little works of art.

PLUIZER



AUTHORS



Yule Hermans (b. 1996) studied illustration in Antwerp. She likes to depict stories in illustrations full of emotion and ambiance. In her atmospheric and poetic images, reality and magic are intertwined. **Pieter Bergé** (b. 1967) is professor of musicology at the KU Leuven. He is a specialist in music of the period 1750-1900, but he has an enduring love of twentieth-century music. He presents himself as a modern musicologist, eager to share his specialist knowledge with a far broader circle of music-lovers. He is the artistic director of Festival 20/21, which focuses on music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

ORIGINAL TITLE Hoe groen klinkt een gitaar? En 99 andere dingen die je moet weten over klassieke muziek (2019, Lannoo, 288 pp.)

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