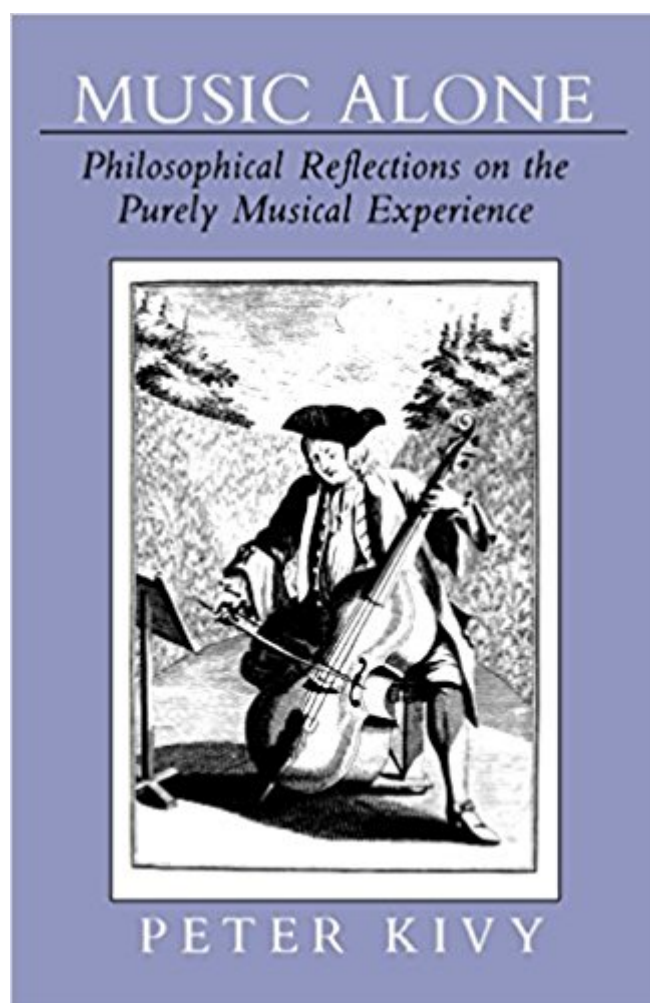


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# Music Alone: Philosophical Reflections On The Purely Musical Experience



## Synopsis

What makes a musical work profound? What is it about pure instrumental music that the listener finds attractive and rewarding? In addressing these questions, Peter Kivy continues his highly regarded exploration of the philosophy of musical aesthetics. He considers here what he believes to be the most difficult subject of all—“just plain music; music unaccompanied by text, title, subject, program, or plot; in other words, music alone.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am surprised to be the first reviewer on this. I wanted to understand why certain music moves me so (Beethoven and Bach particularly). I wanted something beyond "program notes", and that means (I came to learn) musicology and especially philosophy of music. The search led me to some pretty turgid, academic, unreadable (to a non-academic like myself) texts, including books by this author, who is an academic. But this book is very good so far; I am about halfway through. The writing is accessible but deep, and explanatory without being reductionist. Reductionist would for example be "explaining" by employing neuroanatomy in a restatement of the problem as if that were an explanation, the way a physician will sometimes pronounce a diagnosis that is simply your symptoms restated in Latin. Kivy asks what it means to "understand" music, and I am finding his exploration of this to be very helpful to me.

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