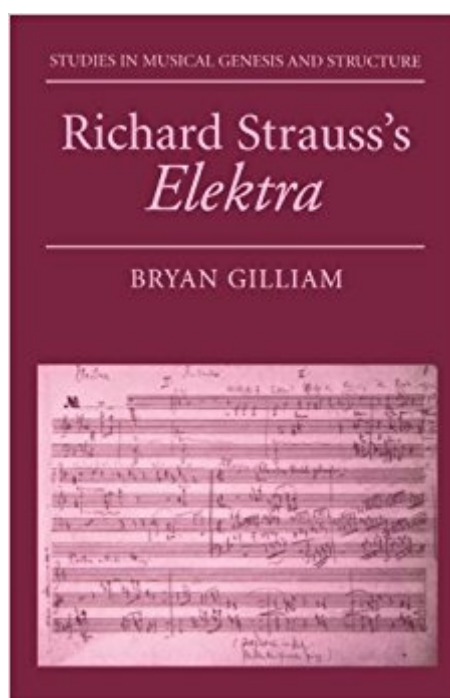


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Richard Strauss's Elektra (Studies In Musical Genesis, Structure, And Interpretation)



Synopsis

Elektra was the fourth of fifteen operas by Strauss and opened his successful partnership with the librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Gilliam's study of this major work examines its musical-historical context and also provides a detailed analysis of some of its musical features. He establishes a chronology of the evolution of the opera and places it in the larger framework of German opera of the time. His detailed examination of the sketchbooks enables him to offer fresh insight into Strauss's use of motifs and overall tonal structure. In so doing he shows how the work's arresting dissonance and chromaticism have hidden its similarities to his later, seemingly more tonally conservative opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*: not only does Strauss exploit in both a variety of musical styles to express irony, parody, and other emotions, but both are in fact thoroughly tonal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Each step in Elektra's creation yields fascinating material....Gilliam's ideas are clearly expressed and convincing, and his presentations of the evidence are exemplary--a treat and a model for any scholar."--Choice
"Delves deep into the opera's origins by the closest analysis yet undertaken of the sketchbooks at the composer's home in Garmisch and elsewhere. These shed fascinating light on Strass's working methods."--The Independent

Bryan Gilliam's study of this major work looks at its musical-historical context: establishing its

compositional chronology, examining critical response to the premiere--especially within the context of contemporary German opera. Gilliam, furthermore, explores a number of important, hitherto unexamined Elektra sources including Strauss's musically fresh insight into such issues as the relationship between voice and orchestra, thematic treatment, and tonal organization, all serving to enhance our understanding of this complex and compelling work.

Elektra is my favorite opera and this book really examines it in detail. If you looking for a book with some real in depth analyses this is the book for you.

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