2015

Book Review: Dislocated Memories: Jews, Music, and Postwar German Culture

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The following review appeared in the May 2015 issue of CHOICE:

Music

52-4661  ML3776  2013-50426 CIP

This book documents a post-Holocaust German Jewish musical dynamic range including folk, popular, classical, and modernist; a continuing interest in liturgical, cabaret, displacement camp music; and compositions conceived in response to the Holocaust. In her essay, Frühauf treats, in part, Kristallnacht commemorations of 1938 (in both Germanys) and their impact on and within musicology since the pioneering work of Inge Lammel and Joseph Wulf; Hirsch considers the politics of displacement in musical commemoration and as a psychological reconstruction of identity after trauma. Other contributors take up the reception of Arnold Schoenberg’s A Survivor from Warsaw in East Germany and Dutch-born interpreter of Yiddish song and dance Lin Jaldati, to cite just two of the many valuable offerings. All essays reflect on displacement in their examination of how politics shaped music’s connection to Jewishness and dislocation. Including fresh, original, well-written, and substantive research by scholars in music, history, and Jewish studies, this volume contributes to the attempted reconstruction of a transnational, multilingual, diverse cultured Jewish musical praxis of the German-Jewish encounter. Including an excellent bibliography and index, this is a volume for those interested in the Cold War, cultural history, musicology and music studies, sociology, and German, Yiddish, Holocaust, Jewish, and memory studies.

--D. B. Levy, Touro College, Lander College for Women

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates; graduate students.