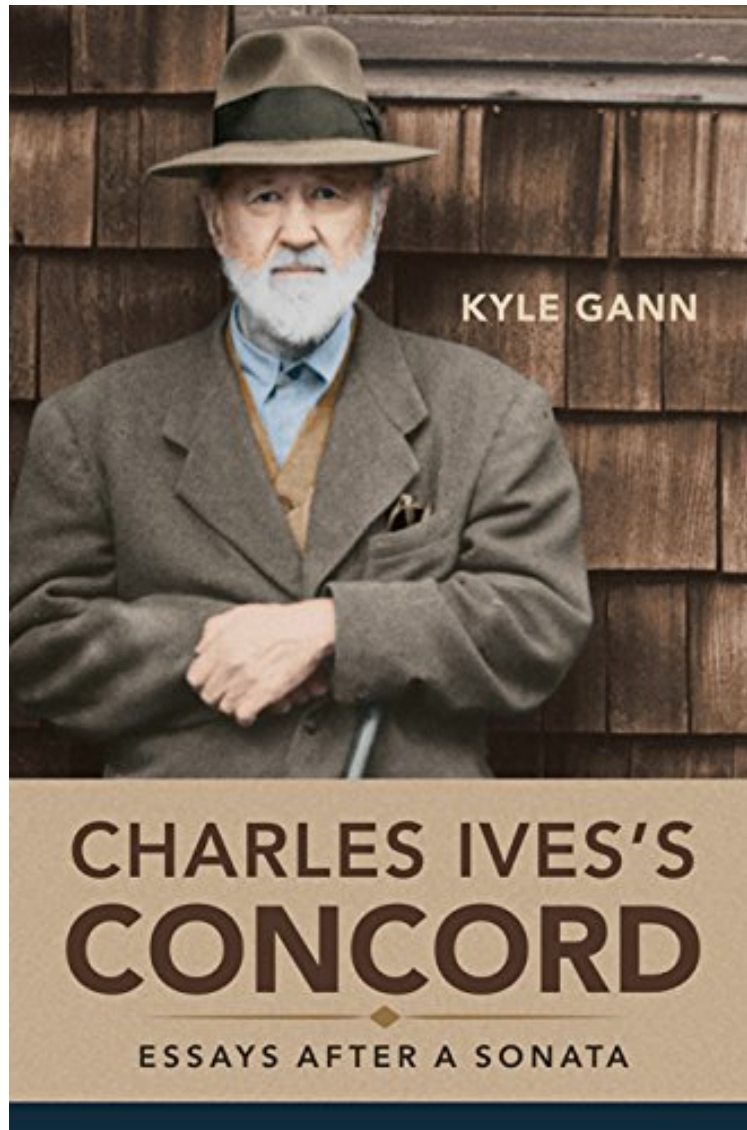


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Charles Ives's Concord: Essays after a Sonata (Music in American Life)

Kyle Gann

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Kyle Gann : Charles Ives's Concord: Essays after a Sonata (Music in American Life) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charles Ives's Concord: Essays after a Sonata (Music in American Life):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book. Really a milestoneBy Emanuele arciuliFantastic book.Really a milestone.

In 1921, insurance executive Charles Ives sent out copies of a piano sonata to two hundred strangers. Laden with dissonant chords, complex rhythm, and a seemingly chaotic structure, the so-called Concord Sonata confounded the recipients, as did the accompanying book, *Essays before a Sonata*. Kyle Gann merges exhaustive research with his own experience as a composer to reveal the Concord Sonata and the essays in full. Diffracting the twinned works into their essential aspects, Gann lays out the historical context that produced Ives's masterpiece and illuminates the arguments Ives himself explored in the *Essays*. Gann also provides a movement-by-movement analysis of the work's harmonic structure and compositional technique; connects the sonata to Ives works that share parts of its material; and compares the 1921 version of the Concord with its 1947 revision to reveal important aspects of Ives's creative process. A tour de force of critical, theoretical, and historical thought, *Charles Ives's Concord* provides nothing less than the first comprehensive consideration of a work at the heart of twentieth century American music.

"Goes far beyond any existing literature in this domain. It's possibly the best analytical writing about a major Ives composition that I've seen."--William Brooks, University of York "It is refreshing to read such a passionate description of a major work of art which is so profoundly meaningful to the author. Practically every page is informative, or contains new insight into the work. By far the best work ever done on the subject."--Neely Bruce, Wesleyan University