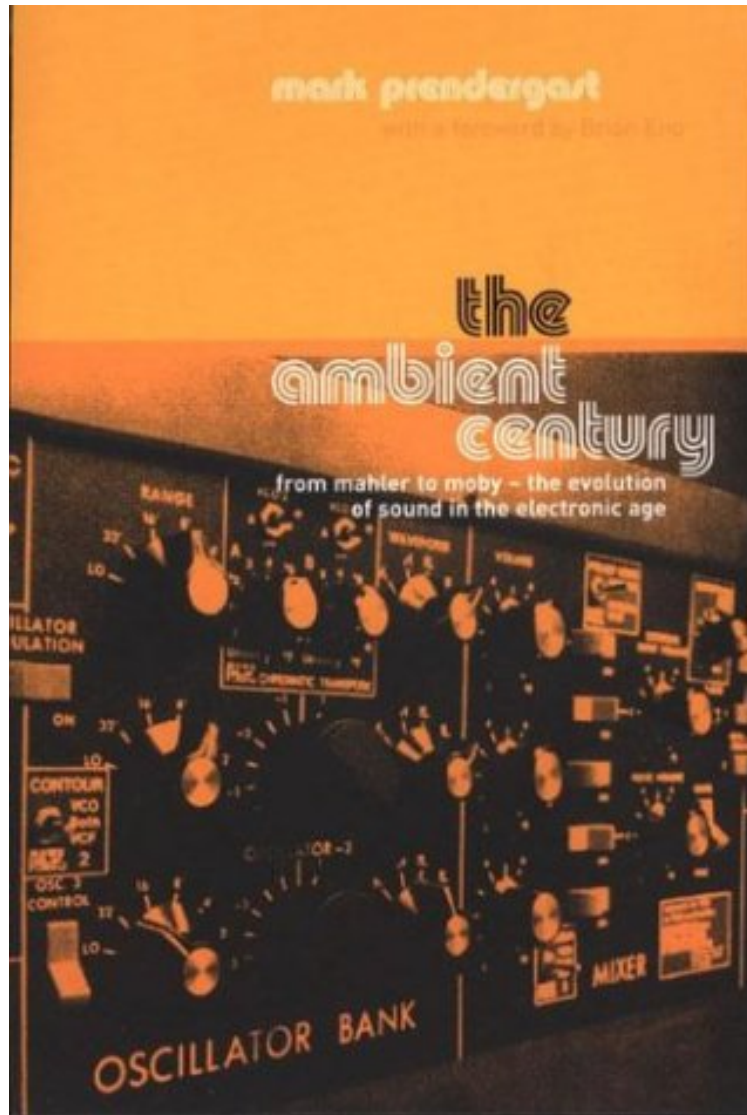


[Get free] The Ambient Century: From Mahler to Moby--The Evolution of Sound in the Electronic Age

The Ambient Century: From Mahler to Moby--The Evolution of Sound in the Electronic Age

Mark Prendergast

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1911617 in Books Bloomsbury USA 2003-09-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.60 x 5.98 x 9.16l,
#File Name: 1582343233500 pages | File size: 69.Mb

Mark Prendergast : The Ambient Century: From Mahler to Moby--The Evolution of Sound in the Electronic Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ambient Century: From Mahler to Moby--The Evolution of Sound in the Electronic Age:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extremely InformativeBy MaryThis book gave more information than I could have asked for from an unbiased view. Details include analysis for the motives of each artist and his

contributions. This book even goes beyond the rocker spectrum to provide details for the inventions, their cultural diffusion, and how they influenced most genres we know today - All starting from what most would consider before the beginning as not to leave out any details. The author's descriptions are factual, yet insightful at the same time. The large index allows for you to put the information in your own order. Though not much detail is presented about the electronic inventions from a scientific angle, suggested listening and stories for each artist encourage extension of learning about the music of the twentieth century. If you want to learn about electronic music's hearth and spread across our world, I would recommend you *The Ambient Century*. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. he got the point By Ulrich Krieger looking at the 20th century as the ambient century is right on the spot. none the less the book focuses too much on individual artists and not enough on the general development and background. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An eclectic encyclopedia, not a coherent analysis By Autonomieus (This is my 3/27/01 review of the original hardcover edition, which is available used for a lot less than this out-of-print paperback edition. For some reason the paperback is listed separately, which I only just now realized.) Your evaluation of *THE AMBIENT CENTURY* will depend on what you're looking for. I expected serious analysis, and by that criteria would give it 1 star. If what you're interested in, though, is an eclectic encyclopedia of interesting 20th century musicians, loosely grouped by the theme of "ambience," which is never defined, then you might think this is great. (I can't comment on the fact-checking criticism, but to me it's a secondary point.) Prendergast moves from "high art" composers including Debussy and Stockhausen, to "minimalism," to rock, broken into categories such as psychedelic, krautrock and synthesizer music, to the '90s techno/house/drumbass/ambient trend. However, his definition of "ambient" involves "music being deconstructed" by Mahler and Debussy (sounds really "postmodern," but what does it mean?), and developments in technology/electronics, along with an "interest in pure sound." He pronounces: "[T]he bleeding heart of electronic progress had by its very nature rendered all recorded music, by definition, Ambient." (4) Given this sort of cosmic perspective Prendergast could have included all music, and what he does include seems to be more or less "cool stuff that I like." Harsh, I know, but does Bob Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door," by any stretch of the conceptual imagination, belong on a list of the Essential 100 Recordings of 20th Century Ambient Music? If so, our author fails to offer any explanation. How about Led Zeppelin IV (ie, ZOSO)? I'm at a loss. If the book was appropriately titled, I would have much less to criticize. But when you title a book "The Evolution of Sound in the Electronic Age," you lead the reader to expect some sort of theoretical analysis -- what sort of evolution? In what direction? What mechanisms are involved? But there is "no there there" if what is happening is just technological progress, and "an interest in pure sound" may characterize Cage's famous *4'33"* (the silent composition), but there is not even an attempt here to argue that it is the direction of 20th century music. If Prendergast really means to emphasize the use of music as background, where is his discussion of Muzak, and music in advertising? He doesn't develop his embryonic theme(s), but rather rushes headlong into profiles of musicians, which are strung together with little connecting analysis. Caveat emptor -- if you're looking for serious analysis, look elsewhere, but if you want a breezy journalistic encyclopedia of non-mainstream music circa 2000 (that was seen as cool by *The Wire* magazine) you might find this a useful reference work. (For a model of analysis of cutting edge music, check out Nyman's *EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC*. It also has a foreward by Brian Eno!)(verified library loan)

The Ambient Century is the definitive chronicle of a century of musical change. Encyclopedic, yet with a strong narrative, Mark Prendergast covers such diverse artists as Gustav Mahler, Philip Glass, New Order, and Moby. Lively, compelling, and authoritative-and boasting an unmatched discography-*The Ambient Century* is a treat for music lovers of all kinds. With an introduction by electronic music pioneer Brian Eno.

"*The Ambient Century* does what the best music books should do: It makes you hungry to hear the notes again." - *Boston Globe* "A wealth of detailed information and cogent observations ... Prendergast has an astonishing grasp of the global scene in popular music and writes with authority and conviction." - *Library Journal* "Prendergast's highly stimulating book courses across the last century, criss-crossing happily between classical, jazz, rock, and its subdivisions, charting the myriad ways composers, musicians, and galloping technology have expanded our sonic horizons." - *The Times (London)* "A vast and cogent treatment of the sound that changed the way we experience music...An exceptional piece of music history." - *Kirkus* s