

New sounds, new stories : narrativity in contemporary music

Meelberg, V.

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Statements accompanying the dissertation

New Sounds, New Stories: Narrativity in Contemporary Music

Vincent Meelberg

- I. In music analysis, one should not pursue objectivity, but intersubjectivity instead.
- 2. Traditionally, musicology is predominantly concerned with visual, rather than aural, objects.
- 3. Music without musical tense is incomprehensible.
- 4. Musical causality, linearity, and goal-directedness cannot be found in the music itself, but can only be represented by it.
- 5. Narrative is not necessarily linguistic.
- 6. The fact that a musical narrative differs in many respects from a verbal narrative renders the notion of musical narrativity even more productive.
- 7. Each performance of the same narrative musical piece results in a new musical narrative.
- 8. An atonal musical narrative is not about music; it is about narrativity.
- 9. For a Western listener, listening to an atonal composition is a more intuitive and conscious activity than listening to tonal music is.
- 10. The best way to get to know a person better is to make music with him/her.
- 11. The self-evidence of self-evidence is not evident.