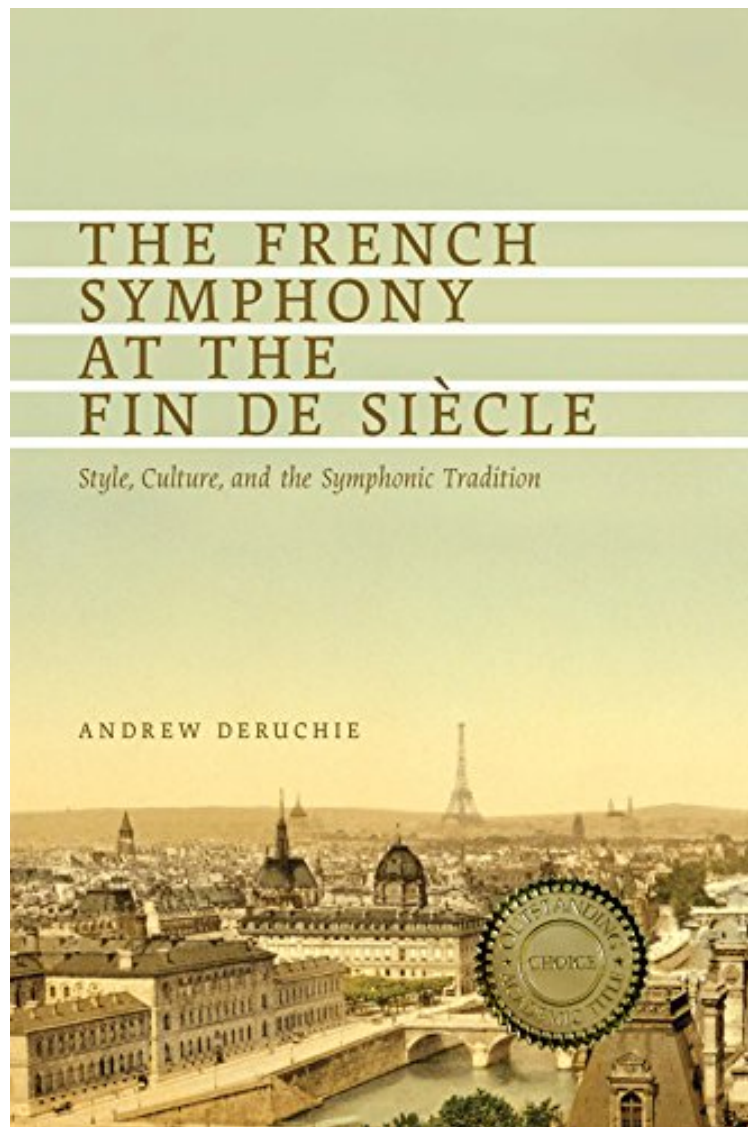


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The French Symphony at the Fin de Sicle (Eastman Studies in Music)

Andrew Deruchie

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Andrew Deruchie : The French Symphony at the Fin de Sicle (Eastman Studies in Music) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The French Symphony at the Fin de Sicle (Eastman Studies in Music):

In this first full-length study of the symphony in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century France, Andrew Deruchie provides extended critical discussion of seven of the most influential and frequently performed works of the era, by Camille Saint-Sans, Csar Franck, douard Lalo, Vincent d'Indy, and Paul Dukas. The volume explores how these symphonists modernized the art form yet preserved many of the formal and rhetorical conventions of the canon, reconciling, in particular, Beethoven's symphonic legacy with the musical culture, intellectual environment, and political milieu of fin-de-sicle France. Drawing on contemporary criticism, music histories, composers' prose, and unpublished sketches, Deruchie's readings offer fresh insights on issues of musical form and technique, and also move beyond the notes to consider questions of meaning. Andrew Deruchie is a lecturer in musicology at the University of Otago (New Zealand).

Through his focus on the individual characteristics of each composer and work, Deruchie presents a wonderful panoramic view of the issues and concerns roiling the waters of French musical life in the last decades of the nineteenth century. . . . Richly illustrated by musical examples and graphs. . . . Deruchie's prose is pleasantly engaging, and he has a dramatist's knack for constructing an absorbing narrative for each chapter. His analyses are sprinkled with descriptions that are as colourful as they are insightful. Anyone interested in French music or the history of the symphony in the nineteenth century would find much of interest in (this) book. MUSIC LETTERS Destined to become a standard resource on its topic. The author is to be commended for . . . exploring key works in more musical depth than any previous study. H-FRANCE Selected as a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2014 (The French symphonies studied here) highlight extraordinary confrontations in and through music. . . . Deruchie's deft Introduction provides a fine model for French musical and social historiography. FRENCH STUDIES Close studies or analyses of the French symphony are relatively few. Thus this contribution . . . is particularly important. Discussion of each symphony is tailored to the unique features of that work. Destined to become a standard resource, accessible for the interested novice. Summing Up: Essential. All readers. CHOICE The latest addition to the outstanding "Eastman Studies in Music" series from the University of Rochester Press . . . is an impressively informative work from beginning to end. Extraordinary and highly recommended addition to professional and academic library Music Studies reference collections and supplemental reading lists. MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW Well-written, thought-provoking, and fascinating . . . Skillfully enlces the musical with the sociopolitical. H-NET REVIEWS IN THE HUMANITIES SOCIAL SCIENCES Andrew Deruchie's *The French Symphony at the Fin de Sicle* is thoroughly researched, intelligently designed, and vividly narrated. This wonderful book should appeal to anyone who is interested not only in French music but also in the broader cultural and historical issues surrounding European classical music at the end of the nineteenth century. --Michael J. Puri, author of *Ravel the Decadent: Memory, Sublimation, and Desire* (Oxford 2011)