
Acoustics Applied to Music

by Howard Pollard

Second printing 2001, 218 pages, ISBN 0-646-38065-6

This book is written for musicians, music students, music lovers and non-specialists generally who are interested in exploring the fascinating relationships between music and acoustics. Any technical terms, both musical and acoustical, that cannot be avoided are fully explained. There is definitely no mathematics to worry the reader. Numerous biographical sketches add some personal interest. Topics include the acoustics of rooms, energy and music, effects of noise, sound measurement, recording, the role of the ear and brain in the perception of music.

The author was associate professor of physics in charge of acoustics at UNSW until his retirement. His research work has included investigations in physical acoustics and musical acoustics. He has been active as a recital organist and has conducted adult education courses in organ music. He was Chief Editor of *Acoustics Australia* for a number of years.

Quotes from Reviews

Joe Wolfe in *Acoustics Australia* (Vol 27 No.2, p.103, 1999):

"The book is a remarkable achievement. It really does give a good explanation of the wide range of topics in a way that is readily understandable to a non-scientific but interested reader. It's an enjoyable read for a specialist, too".

Neville Fletcher in *The Physicist* (Vol 37 No.2, p.74, 2000):

"I recommend this book particularly to music students who have no desire to learn about formal physics but who need to understand the background to the practice of their art – there should be a copy in every conservatorium, university music department and high-school library. It also makes interesting and undemanding reading for those with some scientific education who would like to know a little more about the physical background to music".

Graeme Rawson in the *Sydney Organ Journal* (Vol 31 No.2, p.33, 2000):

"The author has a unique ability to describe complex scientific and musical notions in the simplest possible terms. Accepting that general readers are repelled by alien technical terms, these are kept to a minimum and when they are essential, an explanatory footnote is provided. Even the use of mathematical symbolism is cleverly avoided. The book is scholarly, clear, concise and a mine of valuable information. With its 200 pages and excellent presentation, it is great value for money. It is recommended without reservation. Buy it!"

Distribution:

The book may be purchased directly by cheque or money order from the author at the following address for A\$29 including postage within Australia:

Howard Pollard, 6 Wren Place, Cronulla 2230

Alternatively, it is available from

- **Gleebooks**, 49 Glebe Pt Rd, Glebe 2037, **phone** (02) 9660 2333, **email** books@gleebooks.com.au, **internet** www.gleebooks.com.au.