



Tonal Pitch Space

By Fred Lerdahl

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Building on the foundation of Lerdahl and Jackendoff's influential *A Generative Theory of Tonal Music*, this volume presents a multidimensional model of diatonic and chromatic spaces that quantifies listeners' intuitions of the relative distances of pitches, chords, and keys from a given tonic. The model is employed to assign prolongational structure, represent paths through the space, and compute patterns of tension and attraction as musical events unfold, thereby providing a partial basis for understanding musical narration, expectation, and expression. Conceived as both a music-theoretic treatise and a contribution to the cognitive science of music, this book will be of interest to music theorists, musicologists, composers, computer musicians, and cognitive psychologists.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A *Generative Theory of Tonal Music* by Fred Lerdahl and Ray Jackendoff is one of the most important works in music theory in the last half of the 20th century, and likewise it has taken its place among the foundational texts in music perception and cognition. Thus the publication of Lerdahl's *Tonal Pitch Space*, a book which extends the GTTM project, is a significant event."--*Music Perception*

"*Tonal Pitch Space* is one of the most important books to come along in music theory and music cognition in a while. The degree of detail that Lerdahl builds into his model is extraordinary, and the consistency with which he references not only the research literature of cognitive psychology but also that of the full breadth of the history of music theory will ensure its importance to both groups of scholars for some time to come."--*Computer Music Journal*

"[*Tonal Pitch Space*] is an awe-inspiring achievement. It is bursting at the seams with interesting ideas and perceptive analytic insights. It breaks new ground in establishing rigorous, algorithmic procedures for sophisticated music theories and in forging strong connections between music theory and music psychology. It engages other work in the field in the most exemplary way (one can only marvel at the wealth of references, not only to music theory past and present but also to psychology and other disciplines)--building on the ideas of others but always offering fresh insights and perspectives."--*Musicae Scientiae*

About the Author

Fred Lerdahl is at Columbia University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daria Gertz:

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