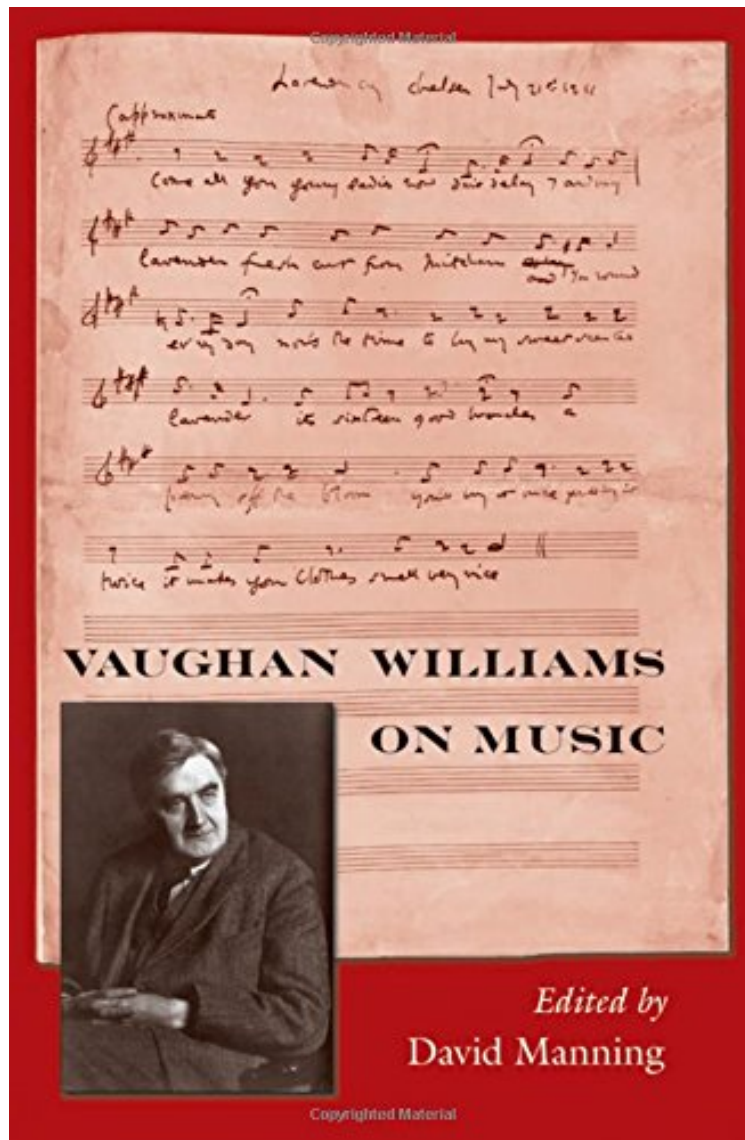


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Vaughan Williams on Music

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valuable insights into RVW's thinking about music and musical issues. For the student of RVW and his music, it may prove invaluable and entertaining. Humorous and biting at times, it shows this great composer's thinking as no other work has done thus far.

Concert audiences have an enduring affection for the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams; a composer of dance, symphony, opera, song, hymnody, and film music, serious scholarship on his music is currently enjoying a revival. 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of Vaughan Williams passing. This collection brings together a host of lively writings, some for the first time, and many for the first time since their initial publication by one of the most articulate, beloved and engaging English composers. Making available essays, articles, broadcasts, and speech transcripts from 1901-1958, *Vaughan Williams on Music* exemplifies the multi-faceted nature of his contributions: active supporter of amateur music and English music, a leader in the folksong revival, educator, performer, and polemicist. Vaughan Williams was one of the cultural giants of his day, a figure of iconic stature whose influence stretched far beyond musical circles; his friendships with Bertrand Russell and G. M. Trevelyan, and his tireless work on behalf of a variety of organizations and causes, from Jewish refugees to the Third Programme, gave him a unique place in British national life. He also had a powerful influence in the United States, at a time when the international relationship was approaching its zenith. Through all these perspectives, the words are unmistakably those of a practicing composer; a young composer at the turn of the last century, trying to find his own musical voice amid widely diverse stylistic influences of the dominant and successful figures of Brahms, Strauss, and Tchaikovsky, and a mature composer in the mid-century, having found that glorious voice which continues to resound across the globe. The volume will be an important contribution to the literature not only on British music, but also on nineteenth- and twentieth-century British cultural and intellectual life as a whole, placing Vaughan Williams' political and aesthetic thought in a broader cultural perspective.

"Vaughan Williams was a man of indefatigable energy and curiosity: a gracious, open-hearted spirit. All this and more emerge here."--Andrew Green, *Classical Music*"David Manning is to be commended for his tactful and thorough editing of this splendid collection of writings by the great British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. By assembling and organizing these essays, many of which are being reprinted for the first time since their initial publication, Manning has revealed the breadth and depth of Vaughan Williams's views on music, and thus has provided readers with a breathtaking panorama of a long and distinguished career. That Vaughan Williams was one of the towering composers of the twentieth century goes without saying, but this collection amply demonstrates that his social and aesthetic concerns were those of an intelligent, warmhearted, and sensible liberal humanist who possessed a lively and often felicitous prose style."--Byron Adams, University of California, Riverside"Vaughan Williams was a prolific and provocative writer of prose as well as music. This fascinating collection, ranging from the independent-minded responses of a young composer to Wagner and Brahms in the 1890s, to influential pronouncements on hot-button issues of the 1950s such as the fledgling BBC Third Programme, reveals the extraordinary range of his interests and sympathies, and the lifelong passion with which he threw himself into nurturing myriad different dimensions of his country's musical life."--Alain Frogley, University of Connecticut

About the Author David Manning is a Teaching Fellow in Music at the University of Bristol.