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On Repeat: How Music Plays the Mind (Hardback)

By Elizabeth Hellmuth Margulis

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2014. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. What is it about the music you love that makes you want to hear it again? Why do we crave a hook that returns, again and again, within the same piece? And how does a song end up getting stuck in your head? Whether it s a motif repeated throughout a composition, a sample looped under an electronic dance beat, a passage replayed incessantly by a musician in a practice room-or an earworm burrowing through your mind like a broken record-repetition is nearly as integral to music as the notes themselves. Its centrality has been acknowledged by everyone from evolutionary biologist W. Tecumseh Fitch, who has called it a design feature of music, to the composer Arnold Schoenberg who admitted that intelligibility in music seems to be impossible without repetition. And yet, stunningly little is actually understood about repetition and its role in music. On Repeat offers the first in-depth inquiry into music s repetitive nature, focusing not on a particular style, or body of work, but on repertoire from across time periods and cultures. Author Elizabeth Hellmuth Margulis draws on a diverse array of...

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