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# Chagall And Music



## Synopsis

Accompanying text for the exhibition at the Montreal Beaux-Arts Museum, from 28th January to 11th June 2017 and Los Angeles LACMA, from 23th July 2017 to 7th January 2018. Highly illustrated, this book explores a hitherto overlooked topic in Chagall studies. This book explores the connection between Chagall and music. This intimate relationship, which ran deep in both his family history and the Jewish culture of his native city, was particularly meaningful in Chagall's creations for the stage. His works for the Jewish Theatre (Moscow, 1919-1920) and the ballets 'Aleko' (Mexico, 1942), 'The Firebird' (New York, 1945), 'Daphnis et Chloé' (1958) and 'The Magic Flute' (New York, 1967) celebrate the links he established between music, large-scale set design, and the material design of costumes. Chagall's monumental projects in the 1960s, such as the ceiling of the Paris Opera (1964) and his decorative architectural program for the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in New York (1966), are a reflection of his notion of 'total art', and his explorations in the universality of music and its translation into the spatial dimension. Music was a constant source of inspiration to Chagall. The subject of his creations, it provided internal rhythm and strength to his compositions, as well as dictating the intensity and ranges of color he used. Offering a fresh approach to iconography, *Chagall and Music* argues for the intersection of audio and visual art as the mark of Chagall's incessant and brilliant modernity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Editors: Ambre Gauthier is an art historian, who acted as curator for the exhibition 'Chagall et la

Musique' at the Philharmonie of Paris. Meret Meyer is vice-president of the Marc Chagall Committee.

400 page hardback catalog to the Chagall & Music exhibit. Some redundancy in essays, the art work is wonderful.

Love it. Beautiful.

very good service and an excellent book - a real piece of art doing justice to the genius Chagall - I saw the exhibition in Montreal and the book will remind me of this outstanding event for many years to come.

the content of Chagall and Music is excellent. the book itself is coming unglued. this is a replacement of the last book that was also coming unglued.

Beautiful book. Excellent service.

The theme of this book (and of the impressive exhibit it catalogs) is how music pervades all of Chagall's work. It succeeds completely in supporting this insight. It explores the importance of music in the Russian Hasidic village where Chagall grew up -- and the recurrence of nostalgia in his visual world. The authors train our eye to see deeply into Chagall's paintings -- to notice how he mixes sacred and profane imagery, for example, and to understand his emblematic images, like the fiddler, the dancers and acrobats, the angels, the musician/king David, the rooster, the luftmensch (person of airy thoughts)...Chagall had a unique spirituality. Hasidism in his time apprehended God through ecstatic singing, dancing, music and overflowing joy. All this is apparent in the vivid reproductions in this book, which is itself a thing of beauty. The book cover, matte and grainy looking, reflects Chagall's fondness for painting on rough surfaces like burlap. Every detail of the book design is thoughtful and even playful. There are many authors -- most of them engaging writers, one or two a bit too fond of academic jargon --- all of them experts in their field. Chagall's masterworks in multiple mediums -- canvases and stained glass, sculptures and theatre sets, costumes for ballet and opera, mosaics and tapestries -- are stunningly reproduced and thoroughly examined in these pages. I had never before been that attracted to Chagall, but the Montreal exhibit and this exuberant catalog opened my eyes to the charm and power of this intriguing artist. I bought the catalog in the museum

bookstore. But offers it too -- a boon for art lovers.

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