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# MUSICOPHILIA

*Tales of Music and the Brain*

Revised and Expanded

**OLIVER SACKS**

*Author of The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*

"Powerful and compassionate. . . . A book that not only contributes to our understanding of the elusive magic of music but also illuminates the strange workings, and mis workings, of the human mind." — *The New York Times*

Oliver Sacks

## Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain, Revised and Expanded Edition



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Revised and Expanded With the same trademark compassion and erudition he brought to *THE PERSON Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, Oliver Sacks explores the place music occupies in the mind and how exactly it affects the individual state. Musical misalignments. In *Musicophilia*, he displays us a variety of what he calls “Among them: a man struck by lightning who abruptly desires to become a pianist at age forty-two;” a whole group of kids with Williams syndrome, who are hypermusical from birth; and a man whose memory spans only seven seconds—for everything but music. *amusia*,” to whom a symphony appears like the clattering of pots and pans; people who have “ Illuminating, inspiring, and utterly unforgettable, *Musicophilia* is normally Oliver Sacks' latest masterpiece.



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Incredibly Interesting Crossover of Music and Neuroscience! Dr. Oliver Sacks can be an esteemed article writer in his field and most of his works that I've read up to now are fantastic. This reserve is slightly technical and would demand basic knowledge of music in addition to a little neuroscience. It really is truly amazing to learn of the ways music has helped these sufferers, and even to summarize, Sacks shares a heartwarming story of how music therapy even brought back certain recollections to a person who struggled with dementia. Anything you hardly understand isn't too challenging to research. I absolutely love this book filled with quirky cases! My all time beloved Sacks book (have them all) My all time favorite Sacks book (have them all), and a "must read" for true music lovers (who also love to read). An attention opener into the world of music therapy, and a thoughtful function expressing the advantages of music regarding neurology and neurological disease. Never to worry; I would suggest this reserve to anyone desiring to learn the neurological background to many musical conditions, as Sacks provides the framework in a simple yet humanistic way. I want my neurologist would examine this. Most of these sufferers have suffered through some kind of somatic condition, dropping some kind of regular kinesthetic or neural function, yet have used music therapeutically to greatly help at least temporarily conquer their obstacles. Most likely not for individuals who don't want to read, but I've this on my set of top reads in a lifetime of truly extreme reading. Amazing and delicious." This applies to sufferers with dementia and the ones suffering from Williams Syndrome! It had been such as a miracle," he stated, and from that he found his enthusiasm for a existence in music. others, nevertheless, think about only one patient, maybe indicative of the rarities of specific circumstances. Oliver Sacks, a neurologist and physician from London, England, has practiced medication for over forty years. His mix of clinical observation, erudite philosophical musings, coupled with the deep empathy for the patients he describes is unique. Especially musicians would enjoy this book. I've even searched for his case histories on PubMed, a large database of scientific research studies, and not an individual story of his was now there. Sacks divides these topics into four main parts: First, the often haunting onset of the heightened sensitivity to music, accompanied by the relation of music to all or any senses of your body, then the strange presence of music in the lives of patients with mentally crippling disorders, and finally, the incredible effect (or lack thereof) of music in the lives of all people, also those without any sort of condition. Because he provides been dealing with patients who experience auditory phenomena for almost 50 years, Sacks uses each chapter of his book to explain a particular case. Some chapters are filled up with examples of patients who suffer or have come to conditions with some kind of disorder; THE BRAND NEW York Times has referred to neurologist Oliver Sacks as "the poet laureate of medicine", and his collections of patient case histories are as vast as they are intriguing. Many patients experience these conditions around older ages, but nonetheless some are born with them. The spectral range of these "musicophilic" or also "musicophobic" conditions is so vast that Sacks has really pioneered the investigation into this field along with his documentation of them. In Musicophilia, Sacks initial recounts his experiences with patients who had, at some point within their lives, suddenly felt the onset of an elevated sensitivity to music. In his initial chapter, "A Bolt from the Blue: Sudden Musicophilia", Sacks tells us of Tony C. Nevertheless, this book is quite different from his prior offerings since he chooses an individual underlying theme. Tony remembered vividly as soon as his onset happened: He was at a family gathering, and though the weather outside was pleasant, a few storm clouds had accumulated in the distance when he went to make a telephone call to his mom." There may be the curious case of Harry S. He previously been struck by lightning. Tony actually found himself in the middle of an out-of-body knowledge, believing himself to be dead, but that which was even more strange for him was that once he was resuscitated, a short time later he had an insatiable craving for music. Feeling now even more alive than ever before, his newly-formed passion for music stole apart his every desire. Satisfied The book came in good quality which is all I needed An excellent read Fascinating study of how music works in the brain. To this day, Tony still functions full-period as an orthopedic cosmetic surgeon, but his entire becoming revolves around music. Though this passion

For music may be regarded as a blessing, others may see it as a curse. Exceptional study and storytelling by Dr. Confronted with the uncommon condition of Musicogenic Epilepsy, several sufferers would live in concern with hearing that one familiar tune that set off the attacks, and so Sacks illustrates the need for research in healing that aurally crippling ailment. Sacks also discusses the mechanisms and regions of the brain responsible for musical imagination and constant playback, as regarding a catchy tune, until finally, he delves into the rare condition referred to as Musical Hallucination. Part II of Musicophilia problems the vast range of musicality that individuals possess, and Sacks covers topics in Amusia, Total Pitch, Dysharmonia, Savant Syndrome, and even Synesthesia. Sacks demonstrates precisely how fascinating a few of these conditions may be in his stories, and in a single case of complete pitch he tells of a former professor of music at Oxford who might even tell what pitch originated from the wind blowing or his dad blowing his nose. Sacks moves on from there, illustrating the partnership music has with vital processes such as for example movement and memory development. He recounts histories of individuals with Tourette's Syndrome, Amnesia, Parkinson's Disease, Phantom Limb Syndrome, and even Musician's Dystonia. I have purchased multiple copies of this book for others, as well as for myself. Possibly the most inspiring story includes Nick van Bloss, an English pianist who acquired, since age group seven, developed a serious form of Tourette's syndrome which created for him a existence of ridicule and bullying. When I listen to music, I feel wrapped in it entirely. "When I performed, my tics almost appeared to disappear!" Full of interesting information and lively anecdotes related by a marvelous writer. Sacks claims that "music, uniquely among the arts, can be both completely abstract and profoundly psychological" (300). In a single individual, Harry S. Oliver Sacks. He'll refer to specific areas in the brain and use some music-related jargon. It had been not until his parents bought a piano that his lifestyle became transformed once and for all. It makes up such a significant part of my entire life, and I understand that it impacts so numerous others in quite similar way. In much the same way, it is interesting to hear of most those who have been tormented by musicogenic epilepsy, or even hallucinations, and Personally I think that Sacks' individual histories illustrate the necessity for future analysis in treating these ailments. It is truly inspiring to listen to how a number of these sufferers whom Sacks has interacted with have relied on music in their lives, and uplifting to listen to how music has taken back good memories or normal features in them. Oliver Sacks' Musicophilia demonstrates the countless ways music has helped others within their lives, including adverse conditions such as Savant Syndrome, Amnesia, even Dementia - and because of this I price Musicophilia a five out of five stars. the narrator is difficult to understand I purchased this CD for my mother, who is blind. Musicophilia covers a variety of musically related topics in neuroscience. His writing style is not designed for research, as he instead feedback on the patient's psychosocial behaviors and lifestyle beyond the standard clinical setting. I have found that he spends nearly as much time covering the history and life-style of an individual as he does covering the pathology of the specific condition, removing particular physiological or biochemical information but instead adding a poetic, humanistic feel to his tales. All-in-all, Musicophilia is really as eye-opening as it is ear-starting! Sacks also has all of the weird neuro stuff, as well. Psychologists and musicians alike gather round to listen to these tales Oliver Sacks is truly one of the greats. This publication can interest psychologists (me) and musical aficionados (also me, but who isn't) and just regular people who want in learning about a few of the fascinating parts of the human encounter and mind. another excellent book simply by Sacks I have often liked Oliver Sacks' writing. He has generally held a passionate interest in music, actually, he statements that "'Music' has always been one of the first issues [he appears up] in the index of any brand-new neurology or physiology textbook., a fit forty-two-year-old orthopedic cosmetic surgeon who was simply in great health. It would appear that the cases talked about and conclusions drawn would be more limited than the far ranging good examples in his previous books. However, if anything, the opposite holds true. He delves deeply into this, some would say, inessential human being endeavor, and showshow intricately it really is interwoven with everything else that makes us individual. The first story in

the book, which appeared in the New Yorker several weeks before publication, really sold me on the book. I actually was somewhat disappointed with the next few items, which were a bit of a letdown. However, the reserve soon picks up, and the second half is as great as anything he offers written before. He does revisit several of his previous case research, however he casts them in a fresh light. She is a retired doctor, and seldom complains, but she has great difficulty understanding the narrator John Lee. Super interesting book! Extremely in-depth, encyclopedic realm of the globe of sounds and music. Each chapter administers an excellent impact with even greater emotion escorted alongside. I would, however, produce the caveat that Sacks will not write for a scientific audience. The brain hardly ever ceases to amaze. Browse the first story upon the New Yorker website. She stated that he mumbles or drops off the last syllables of words and phrases. This is confirmed by a member of family. I am extremely disappointed in this buy and would return it but it was a gift and will be a great nuisance for her to return. I've no complaints approximately the writing or the store. What does it mean to end up being "liberated" by music? He describes music as a panacea and says, "they were liberated by music. For the Music Lover in every of Us! In defiance of low IQ, he honors Williams syndrome individuals by using kind descriptive conditions like: having wide mouths, upturned noses and a true adoration of music. "We humans are a musical species a minimum of a linguistic one... having a perfect tenor voice however he demonstrated no emotion, except when he sang---as if music brought him to life. We integrate most of these and "construct" music in our minds. Sacks relives the pathologies of musical response in his individuals while working in Beth Abraham Medical center. In doing this he illustrates, perhaps better than in any of his earlier works, how complicated our minds truly are." ---Oliver Sacks, MD Sacks' deeply warm and sympathetic study is approximately pathologies of musical response and erudition gained from a "normal" faculty of music. Furthermore, within are new findings from anatomy. We also learn "how may be the musicians mind unique of others? While at the pay mobile phone, he could hear rain amidst the discussion he was having when, upon witnessing a flash emerge from the telephone, found himself dropping backwards to the ground. we perceive tones, timbre, pitch intervals, melodic contours, harmony (probably most elementally) rhythm. In subsequent chapters of Component I, Sacks tells of sufferers who, upon hearing a familiar tune, would convulse uncontrollably., music may be the only emotion able to be completely felt after coping with a brain aneurysm. Sacks is great Oliver Sacks is such a smooth writer who always keeps his audience in mind -- clear examples increase our understandings. His wife couldn't also bear it, submitting for a divorce, but Tony remained indifferent. Scholarly composing at a common guy reading level. (I suggest any reserve by this author.) Essential for music enthusiasts and anyone thinking about the brains workings Fascinating not to mention immensely intelligent. Musicophilia closes with Part IV, demonstrating how music is intertwined with emotion and even identity. We are both great enthusiasts of Oliver Sacks. If you like it, you will love the book Thank you Oliver Sacks Fantastic work by Oliver Sacks as he illustrates the bond between music and the human mind. Super interesting book! An excellent brain book - conveniently readable by actually normal people A very good brain book - quickly readable by also normal people, not only neuro-people. ..." In his forty-year practice of medicine, he has come across a amount of rare cases, particularly those with a focus on music as a disease or as a treatment.



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