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# Rhythmic Gesture In Mozart: Le Nozze Di Figaro And Don Giovanni



## Synopsis

Wye Jamison Allanbrook's widely influential *Rhythmic Gesture in Mozart* challenges the view that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music was a mere play of key and theme, more abstract than that of his predecessors. Allanbrook's innovative work shows that Mozart used a vocabulary of symbolic gestures and musical rhythms to reveal the nature of his characters and their interrelations. The dance rhythms and meters that pervade his operas conveyed very specific meanings to the audiences of the day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is probably the best and most thorough book about *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* available. It was much more useful to me than the Cambridge books, which skim the major areas of study in these operas, and infinitely better than Moberly's survey of the Mozart operas, which is a little diletantish. Many books about opera are only a list of the author's favorite parts of an opera: 'Hey, check out the octave leap when so-and-so gets really angry!' But this book is full of informative jewels, and reveals the author's depth of understanding of the material, the historical period, and the influences of others. Be prepared to dig deep, because there's a lot in here, and have a score handy to follow the arguments. I only wish it gave *Così fan tutte* the same treatment.

This is an absolute gem of a book. Wye Allanbrook analyses each number in the operas, not only in terms of rhythm, but also the other musical elements and dramatic features of each work. An extremely helpful reference for anybody studying classical opera, this book is highly recommended

reading for any singer attempting this repertoire.

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