



Making Music for Modern Dance: Collaboration in the Formative Years of a New American Art (Source Readings)

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Making Music for Modern Dance traces the collaborative approaches, working procedures, and aesthetic views of the artists who forged a new and distinctly American art form during the first half of the 20th century. The book offers riveting first-hand accounts from innovative artists in the throes of their creative careers and provides a cross-section of the challenges faced by modern choreographers and composers in America. These articles are complemented by excerpts from astute observers of the music and dance scene as well as by retrospective evaluations of past collaborative practices.

Beginning with the careers of pioneers Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, and Ted Shawn, and continuing through the avant-garde work of John Cage for Merce Cunningham, the book offers insights into the development of modern dance in relation to its music. Editor Katherine Teck's introductions and afterword offer historical context and tie the artists' essays in with collaborative practices in our own time. The substantive notes suggest further materials of interest to students, practicing dance artists and musicians, dance and music history scholars, and to all who appreciate dance.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Wow! A book with such glorious content and organization that I would enthusiastically use it in my own courses, and recommend it to students and all readers in modern dance history, music for dance, collaborative and interdisciplinary arts, and American music history. How wonderful to have all these primary sources (many rare or previously unavailable) under one cover, each one placed in a clear context. A fantastic contribution illuminating an often neglected subject."--Greg Presley, Music Instructor, Gonzaga University, and former pianist for Martha Graham

"This meticulously researched and annotated collection of articles gives invaluable context to the development of dance as an American art form and the intertwining and influences of leading composers and dance figures to its history."--Janet Mansfield Soares, author, *Martha Hill and the Making of American Dance* and Professor of Dance Emerita, Barnard College, Columbia University

"[Teck] makes the topic and relevant time periods very much alive for the reader, and she connects the issues to the current day...The scope of the book is comprehensive in examining not only trends and the shape of a movement, but also the ins and outs of creative collaboration told from the participants' perspectives."--*Attitude Dancers Magazine*

"This is a terrific new book on music and dance, a must for choreographers, dancers, teachers, musicians...This is a huge contribution."--American Dance Guild

About the Author

A former studio musician for dance, **Katherine Teck** is the author of three previous books about musical collaboration for modern dance and ballet. She has also taught college dance department courses in music.

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