

Inside the Music of Brian Wilson: The Songs, Sounds and Influences of the Beach Boys' Founding Genius

By Philip Lambert

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Inside the Music of Brian Wilson is, as author Phillip Lambert writes in the prologue "completely, and intensely, focused on the music of Brian Wilson, on the musical essence of his songs and the aesthetic value of his artistic achievements. It acknowledges the familiar biographical contexts of his songs, but it tells completely new stories about the birth and evolution of his musical ideas, identifying important musical trends in his work, heretofore undisclosed inter-song connections within his music, or between his music and that of others, and the nature and extent of his artistry. It aims not just to identify great songs, but to explain exactly what makes them so."

Lambert, a renowned musicologist, brings to this work to life with both his professional expertise and an infectious personal appreciation of the power of pop music. His clear, engaging tone and accessible writing style allows even a musically inexperienced reader to follow him as he traces Wilson's musical evolution, with a particular focus on the years leading up to the writing and recording of Pet Sounds and SMiLE, albums which many consider to be the masterpieces of his oeuvre. Inside the Music of Brian Wilson is the definitive book on Wilson's music and is essential reading for fans of Brian Wilson, the Beach Boys, and great pop music.

Includes THREE amazing Appendixes:

Appendix 1: Brian Wilson Song Chronology*

Appendix 2: Four Freshmen Albums, 1955-1961

Appendix 3: Favorite Songs and Influences Through 1961

*The most complete song chronology ever published.

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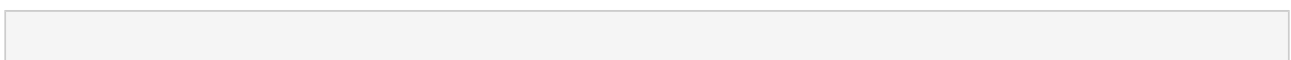
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Editorial Review

Review

"Here, author Lambert dissects every element of Wilsonworld and also provides an abundance of associated stories and intriguing insight. As a source of information, the book is invaluable...this is a welcome addition to the existing surf-sodden library."

Fred Dellar, Mojo, May 2007

(Fred Dellar)

"Lambert's work is extraordinary for what it is, examining the young songwriter piece by piece as Wilson teases out his own voice. It's not exactly poetry, but it is of extraordinary value."

(Jesse Jarrow *Times*)

"This book is long overdue. Lambert's knowledge allows him to root Wilson's music exactly, and to detail its growth and the composer's ability to take the unexpected routes...its scholarly approach will fascinate."

(Kingsley Abbott, Record Collector)

-Mention. San Gabriel Valley Newspapers, June 10, 2007

(San Gabriel Valley Newspapers)

"Now, Philip Lambert chimes in with *Inside the Music of Brian Wilson*, which does in fact break new ground...Lambert demonstrates that in the work of composers such as Wilson, popular music can be much more than three minutes of ear candy." - Erik Himmelsbach (Blurb from reviewer- Erik Himmelsbach)

"*Inside the Music of Brian Wilson: The Songs, Sounds, and Influences of the Beach Boys' Founding Genius* is a pick any Beach Boys fan needs: while Brian Wilson's life has received extensive documentation in other biographies, here the focus is solely on his music, not his life and what a welcome change that is, for fans of his sound...Rock music collections will find it an invaluable exploration." - *The Internet Bookwatch*, July 2007 (The Internet Bookwatch)

"He is ultra-detailed but enthusiastic, and you will be gagging to hear the obscurities that he describes so fully. My Buddy Seat captures the energy and wildness of a joyride in the hills so best take this only if you have access to iTunes." *The Times*, 06/07/07

(*Times*)

Mention in *Memphis Flyer*

"Lambert offers a detailed musical analysis of Wilson as a creative genius, with the Beach Boys as only part of the story. He discusses the various musical influences on Wilson before he began composing for the Beach Boys in 1961 (they quickly became popular); analyzes Wilson's numerous compositions and his albums, an output capped by *Pet Sounds* (1966); and considers his work with other composers and performers into the 21st century. Including a complete song chronology (ending in 2005), a list of the recording dates of each song, and helpful discography, this is a fascinating— and extremely technical— study. Highly Recommended." -*Choice (CHOICE)*

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About the Author

Philip Lambert is Professor of Music at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is a specialist on music of the twentieth century and has published widely on this subject in the fields of music theory and musicology. His previous book is *The Music of Charles Ives*.

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Do you remember the first time you heard *Pet Sounds*? It still takes my breath away, forty years later, but I'll

never forget that jaw-dropping moment when Brian Wilson's masterpiece first entered my consciousness. It seemed just so far removed from anything that seemed possible in a rock album, so deep and sensitive and finely crafted that it surely came from a world beyond this one... I've written this book because I had to know more about the remarkable creative spirit behind *Pet Sounds* and the Beach Boys. I wanted to know every detail about Brian Wilson's music before and after his magnum opus... Of course, I knew something about the life he has lived, especially the publicity-grabbing circumstances of his difficult childhood, up-and-down relationships with his brothers and the group that made him famous, battles with substance abuse and depression, and legal squabbles. But I was sure that his music alone told a story that was interesting on its own, and that was naturally interwoven with his biography. That's the story I've set out to tell in this book...

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