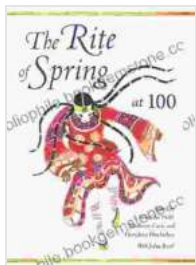


# The Rite of Spring at 100: Musical Meaning and Interpretation

The Rite of Spring is a ballet and orchestral concert work by Igor Stravinsky. It was first performed in Paris in 1913 and caused a riot. The music is dissonant and rhythmically complex, and the choreography is primitive and violent. The work has been interpreted in many different ways, but it is generally seen as a celebration of the power of nature and the human spirit.



## The Rite of Spring at 100 (Musical Meaning and Interpretation) by Mary E. Davis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 30845 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 536 pages



## The Music

The music of The Rite of Spring is dissonant and rhythmically complex. Stravinsky uses a variety of unusual harmonies and rhythms to create a sense of tension and excitement. The music is often described as "primitive" or "barbaric," but it is also highly sophisticated and complex.

The orchestration of *The Rite of Spring* is also very unusual. Stravinsky uses a large orchestra, but he employs the instruments in a very unconventional way. For example, he uses the bassoon to play a high melody, and he uses the tuba to play a low melody. This creates a sense of dissonance and chaos.

## **The Choreography**

The choreography of *The Rite of Spring* is primitive and violent. The dancers are often barefoot, and they move in a jerky, robotic manner. The choreography is designed to create a sense of ritual and sacrifice.

The most famous scene in *The Rite of Spring* is the "Sacrificial Dance." In this scene, a young virgin is chosen to be sacrificed to the god of spring. The dancers move in a frenzied manner, and the music becomes increasingly dissonant and chaotic. The scene ends with the virgin being stabbed to death.

## **The Meaning**

The meaning of *The Rite of Spring* has been debated for decades. Some critics see it as a celebration of the power of nature, while others see it as a critique of the violence and barbarism of human society.

The work has also been interpreted in a political context. Some critics see it as a metaphor for the Russian Revolution, which took place just a few years after the premiere of *The Rite of Spring*. Others see it as a critique of the violence and oppression of the Soviet regime.

Whatever its meaning, *The Rite of Spring* is a powerful and moving work of art that has had a profound impact on music, dance, and theater. It is a

work that is still relevant today, and it continues to challenge and provoke audiences.

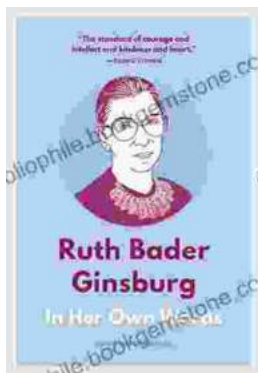
The Rite of Spring is a complex and challenging work of art that has been interpreted in many different ways. It is a work that is still relevant today, and it continues to challenge and provoke audiences. Whether you see it as a celebration of nature, a critique of human society, or a political allegory, there is no denying the power and beauty of The Rite of Spring.



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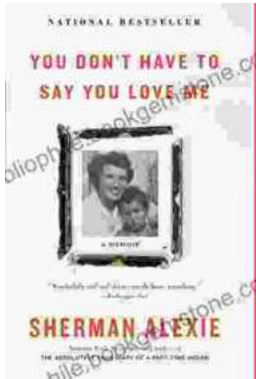
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