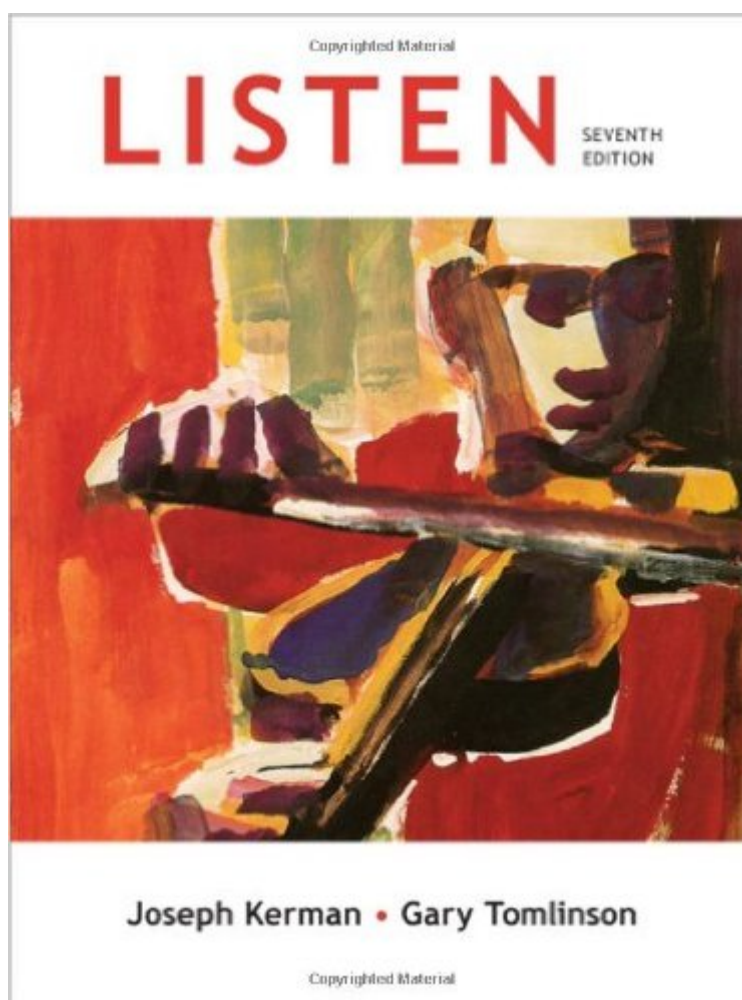


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# Listen, 7th Edition



## Synopsis

Consistently praised as the best book of its kind, Listen uses readable, enjoyable prose and the highest quality recordings to introduce students to the art of focused listening. Captivating discussions and concise "Listening Charts" guide students through important musical works and cultivate listening skills. With informative images, useful historical and cultural background, and interesting biographical information, the text continues to offer students the best preparation to appreciate the styles and traditions of Western music. The seventh edition of Listen is more accessible than ever before with new, more teachable listening examples and a more focused and streamlined introduction to music fundamentals. An expanded range of formats for the text and recordingsâincluding a new, affordable streaming music option and a new, all-inclusive e-bookâgives you more flexible choices and more ways to listen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have had this book prescribed as a textbook for a music history and theory course. This is a good book for such a purpose, it covers much. (This review is on the third edition). Unit I has 5 chapters covering the fundamentals of musical theory. Sound, time, pitch, structure, form and style. Unit II is a 4-chapter overview of early music, starting with the Middle Ages. Unit III covers the 18th century in 6 chapters, starting with Late Baroque. Unit IV focuses on the 19th century, starting with Beethoven and finishing with the Late Romantics in 5 chapters. Unit V: The Twentieth Century, was my favourite section. The prelude chapter discusses the concepts of music and modernism. The next chapter covers the early 20th century, then there is a chapter on alternatives to modernism, and the fourth

chapter covers the late 20th century. Chapter 24 focuses on music in America: Jazz. The book is organised around listening samples. These are available on a set of 6 accompanying CDs. I liked the samples chosen. The late 20th century chapter, for example, discussed works by Ligeti, Berio, Varese, Cage, Crumb, Leon, Gubaidulina and Reich. An alternative to "Listen" is "Music: An appreciation" by Roger Kamien. It seems to me to have a bit more on artistic context, whilst at the same time covering more topics at slightly more depth. However, "Listen" is well organised (always a good sign), and richly illustrated. Historical events are touched upon, and there is some reference to other art forms in context with the music of the time. I would recommend it as an introductory text even if you don't need to read it for school. Of course a book like this can cover topics only to a limited depth.

With the accompanied 6 CDs, Joseph Kerman has written one of the most interesting and comprehensive introductory music texts. Not so much a memory-and-fact type of textbook, Kerman's uncanny ability to describe music experience has made this a success. Students do not need musicianship prerequisite to read this book. From ancient to modern, the book gives a broad overview of some of the masterpieces with insights and explanations. Excellent reading. (Note: The 6 CD set mentioned in this review is sold separately, and is not included in the price of the book. -Ed.)

This book makes learning about music interesting and fun. It begins talking about basic structures of music (rhythm, harmony, tonality, etc.) but mostly follows the history of recorded music starting from the Middle Ages through Baroque to Jazz. It does a good job relating the development of music to other artistic developments of the time, like painting and architecture. With the CD you can listen right along and learn a lot of interesting things about music a novice like me had never thought about before.

I studied this book in my "Introduction to Music" course as an undergraduate in the early 1990s. It is the best book of its kind for someone who not only needs an introduction to music but wishes to cultivate an interest in focused and well-informed listening of music. It is an invaluable book along with its set of 6 CDs for anyone who wants to historically and theoretically develop his or her skills and knowledge to be a well educated listener of music. Many years after my college days, I still use this book as a valuable reference to various composers and their works throughout the history of music.

We used this book in my IB Music class in high school, and I highly recommend it. The CDs are helpful, but you will find that even without them, it is a great asset. Most of the recordings are very standard, so you could easily find them online if you didn't want to buy the CDs and wanted to hear the "listening examples." It is very clear and includes good timelines which makes it easy to study. I am a music major in college and own this book just because it is so user friendly.

I was able to pick up this book for \$8 out the door with expedited shipping. The book was in better condition than was stated. It is practically a new book that I received, and the seller listed as in "good" condition. Sealed DVD was still in the back of the book as well. I am very happy with this purchase. I am not commenting on the quality of the text of the book as it is required for my class regardless. But thus far it seems to provide the knowledge needed for me to excel in my class.

This is the best general survey of music available. Highly recommended for anyone wanting to have a grasp of the periods and styles of Western music, even if they have little or no background in music. It also contains a sampling of world music. When used with the 6 CD supplement it will make anyone feel more "at home" with the history of music and open many windows for exploration.

I purchased this as content for a college music course. It was very easy to understand and well laid out! With the help of the content in this book I was able to get an A in the class and would definitely recommend all music students and enthusiasts purchase this book.

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