



Chronicle Books

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Arrangement is by title.

Musical mathematics; on the art and science of acoustic instruments.

Forster, Cris.

Chronicle Books, ©2010 926 p. \$100.00 ML3805

978-0-8118-7407

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Forster is a performer, composer, piano tuner, and creator of unique acoustic instruments. Using mathematics, he takes apart and reassembles the modes and scales of many cultures. With his knowledge of physics, he demonstrates the many ways that instruments can be configured, particularly stringed instruments, but also percussion and wind. For this, he has invented a new unit for the measurement of mass called the "mica." Based on a history of music going back to Ptolemy, Forster explains how to tune instruments according to Western scale patterns. He also looks at the history of Chinese, Indonesian, Indian and Middle Eastern music and how these civilizations developed their unique tonal systems. Finally, he shows how to build a stringed instrument, and gives detailed descriptions of the instruments he has invented: the Chrysalis, the Harmonic/Melodic Canon, the Diamond Marimba, the Glassdance, and Simple Flutes. These are shown in beautiful color plates at the end. Serious musicians and musical mathematicians will love this book. The only thing it lacks is a CD of the music Forster has created. (Annotation ©2010 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)

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