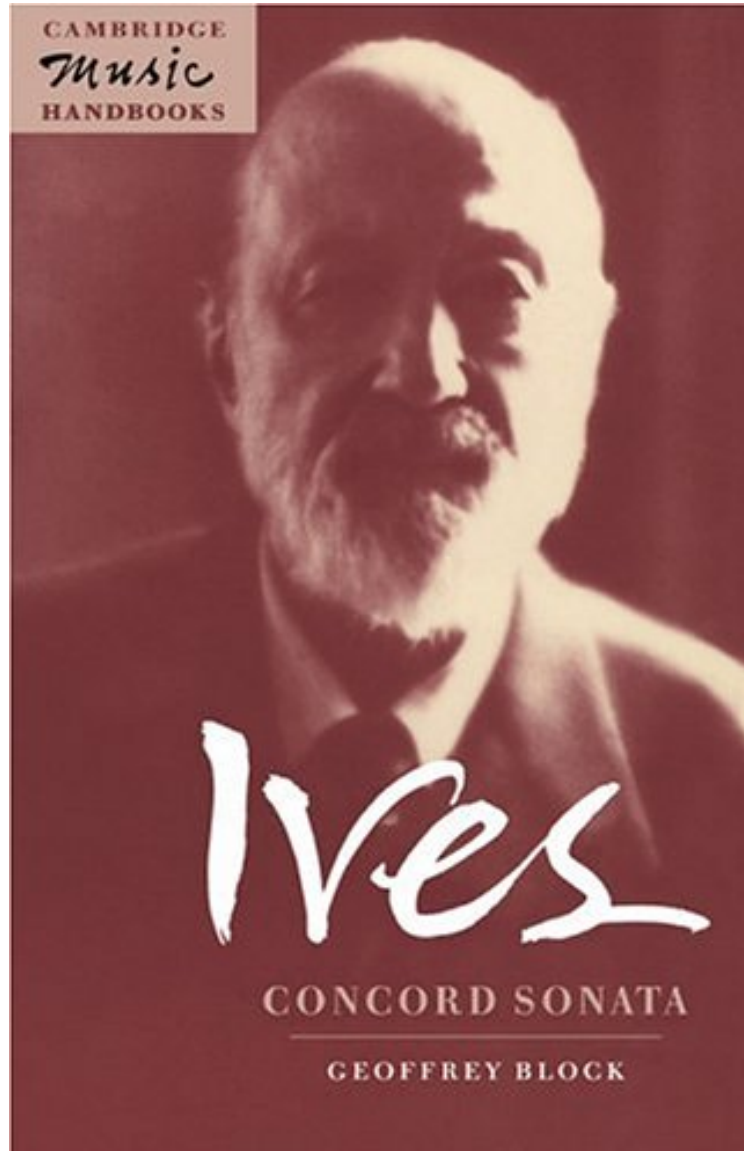


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Geoffrey Block

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File size: 71.Mb

Geoffrey Block : Ives: Concord Sonata: Piano Sonata No. 2 (Cambridge Music Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ives: Concord Sonata: Piano Sonata No. 2 (Cambridge Music Handbooks):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A serious effort to present the sonataBy Antony CookeA very nice presentation, full of many insights, though unfortunately lacking intimate insight into what really is contained within the complex fabric of the music. It seems that any influence Phillip Lambert might have had (see "The Music of Charles Ives") has been kept at bay, for reasons that are as perplexing as they are striking, because Block's textthough likely the best to datestill fails when it comes to lighting the very paths that Ives took, and all too readily accepts certain revisionist positions without question.The Concord Sonata is far too complex a work to be treated in every text without the next level of analysis that surely many students crave. If the inner universe that Ives inhabited is not possible to understand, at very least, there are countless indicators that reveal his thought processes than seems possible to find within any book in print.Overall, however, this ranks as the best account of the sonata currently (as of Jan. 2015) available. Stay tuned, however, for the upcoming volume on the sonata by Kyle Gann, guaranteed to give anyone a run for their money.

Charles Ives' massive Concord Sonata, his second sonata for piano, named after the town of Concord in Massachusetts, is central to his output and clearly reflects his aesthetic perspective. Geoffrey Block's wide-ranging account of the work thus provides an ideal introduction to this fascinating composer. This handbook discusses the Sonata's reception history and its compositional genesis, as well as providing a detailed account of the work's thematic content, its use of borrowed material, and the degree to which the program is influenced by the Concord Transcendentalists.