



Bjork (Icons of Pop Music)

By Nicola Dibben

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This book provides the first musicologically-informed account of Icelandic singer-songwriter Bjork's work to date. Bjork is internationally recognised for her unique and innovative musical style, and her collaborative working relationship with artists, musicians and engineers. Her work crosses the boundaries between club and dance culture and 'high art', and has won numerous awards, including an award for Best Actress (Cannes Film Festival) for her role in the film "Dancer in the Dark", for which she also wrote and scored the music. This book presents an analysis of audio and video tracks, live performances and recorded sound, looked at through the interviews, videos, critical reception, and fanzines that surround the music. Reference is made to the whole of her career, but the focus is on her solo career from Debut onwards. The analysis reveals recurrent cultural themes brought into focus by her music: landscape and identity, the relationship between humans and technology, song as a vehicle for emotional expression, and female autonomy. There are additional chapters on her compositional process, to include newly gathered interview material, and on the critical-musicological approach adopted in this book.

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Editorial Review

Review

Her music has undergone seemingly radical changes in style, from a background playing in Icelandic punk bands, a period working with jazz cover bands, the pranksterish pop of the Sugarcubes, the unique blend of electronic dance and indie in her early solo career, to a style which has become increasingly experimental. -- from the Introduction

From the Publisher

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About the Author

Nicola Dibben is Senior Lecturer in music at the University of Sheffield. She has published on textual analysis of popular music, gender and identity, critical and cultural theory, emotional responses to music and music perception and is co-author of the forthcoming book *Music, Mind and Everyday Life*.

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