



Playing on Words: A Guide to Luciano Berio's Sinfonia (Royal Musical Association Monographs)

By David Osmond-Smith

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Luciano Berio's *Sinfonia* (1968) marked a return by the composer to orchestral writing after a gap of six years. This in-depth study demonstrates the central position the work occupies in Berio's output. David Osmond-Smith discusses the way in which Berio used the Bororo myth described in Levi-Strauss's *Le cru et le cuit* as a framework for *Sinfonia*. This is one of many influences in the work, which also include Joyce's 'Sirens' chapter from *Ulysses*, Beckett's *The Unnameable* and the scherzo from Mahler's 2nd Symphony. The listener who takes refuge in the score of *Sinfonia*, argues Osmond-Smith, finds there a maze of allusions to things beyond the score. It is some of those allusions that this book seeks to illuminate.

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