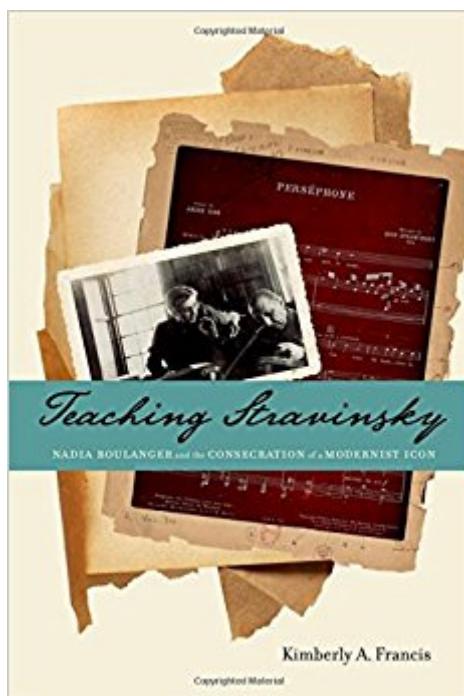


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Teaching Stravinsky: Nadia Boulanger And The Consecration Of A Modernist Icon



Synopsis

In 1929 Nadia Boulanger accepted Igor Stravinsky's younger son, Soulima, as her student. Within two years, Stravinsky and Boulanger merged their artistic spheres, each influencing and enhancing the cultural work of the other until the composer's death in 1971. *Teaching Stravinsky* tells Boulanger's story of the ever-changing nature of her fractious relationship with Stravinsky. Author Kimberly A. Francis explores how Boulanger's own professional activity during the turbulent twentieth-century intersected with her efforts on behalf of Stravinsky, and how this facilitated her own influential conversations with the composer about his works while also drawing her into close contact with his family. Through the theoretical lens of Bourdieu, and drawing upon over one thousand pages of letters and scores, many published here for the first time, Francis examines the extent to which Boulanger played a foundational role in defining, defending, and ultimately consecrating Stravinsky's canonical identity. She considers how the quotidian events in the lives of these two icons of modernism informed both their art and their professional decisions, and convincingly argues for a reevaluation of the influence of women on cultural production during the twentieth century. At once a story of one woman's vibrant friendship with an iconic modernist composer, and a case study in how gendered polemics informed professional negotiations of the artistic-political fields of the twentieth-century, *Teaching Stravinsky* sheds new light not only on how Boulanger taught Stravinsky, but also how, in doing so, she managed to influence the course of modernism itself.

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Customer Reviews

"[Teaching Stravinsky] add[s] to the understanding of this immensely talented and influential twentieth-century musician...I can recommend...to those interested in the career of one of the great musicians of the last century."--Classical Net"[Stravinsky and Boulanger's] was a shifting and not-always-clearly-defined relationship, and in Francis's hands it makes for engrossing reading...she brings Boulanger closer into the fold than ever before."--Gramophone"Teaching Stravinsky is an invaluable contribution to the scholarship of twentieth-century composition and gender studies. The layperson and professional alike will reap rich rewards from this previously underexplored territory. Francis not only mines the intriguing interactions between these two twentieth-century icons, but in the process, creates a vivid portrait of the politics, aesthetics, patronage, and mechanics involved in concert, pedagogical, and publishing arenas in the twentieth century. Her groundbreaking adaptation of sociological theory to frame her subject can serve as a model for subsequent musicological studies, and demonstrates the benefit of eschewing the "great works" paradigm imbued in the literature in favor of a framework that allows for a more complex and fluid realization of the creation of culture."--Journal of the International Alliance for Women in Music

Kimberly A. Francis is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Guelph, Canada, where she specializes in music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and feminist musicology. She serves as Editor-in-Chief for the University of Guelph's award-winning journal *Critical Voices: The University of Guelph Book Review Project* and served as co-supervisor for the digitization of the Don Campbell Papers at the American Music Research Centre. Dr. Francis has been the recipient of a number of grants, including those from the American Musicological Society and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Her numerous articles have appeared in everything from *The Musical Quarterly* to the *Journal of the Society for American Music*.

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