

The research is voluminous, as is the artistry and perceptiveness. Swayne has lived richly within the world of Sondheims music.---Richard Crawford, author of Americas Musical Life: A HistorySondheims career and music have never been so skillfully dissected, examined, and put in context. With its focus on his work as composer, this book is surprising and welcome.---Theodore S. Chapin, President and Executive Director, The Rodgers & Hammerstein OrganizationWhat a fascinating book, full of insights large and small. An impressive analysis and summary of Sondheims many sources of inspiration. All fans of the composer and lovers of Broadway in general will treasure and frequently refer to Swaynes work.---Tom Riis, Joseph Negler Professor of Musicology and Director of the American Music Research Center, University of ColoradoStephen Sondheim has made it clear that he considers himself a playwright in song. How he arrived at this unique appellation is the subject of How Sondheim Found His Sound---an absorbing study of the multitudinous influences on Sondheims work.Taking Sondheims own comments and music as a starting point, author Steve Swayne offers a biography of the artists style, pulling aside the curtain on Sondheims creative universe to reveal the many influences---from classical music to theater to film---that have established Sondheim as one of the greatest dramatic composers of the twentieth century.Sondheim has spoken often and freely about the music, theater, and films he likes, and on occasion has made explicit references to how past works crop up in his own work. He has also freely acknowledged his eclecticism, seeing in it neither a curse nor a blessing but a fact of his creative life.Among the many forces influencing his work, Sondheim has readily pointed to a wide field: classical music from 1850 to 1950; the songs of Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, and Hollywood; the theatrical innovations of Oscar Hammerstein II and his collaborators; the cinematic elements found in certain film schools; and the melodramatic style of particular plays and films. Ultimately, Sondheim found his sound by amalgamating these seemingly disparate components into his unique patois.How Sondheim Found His Sound is the first book to provide an overview of his style and one of only a few to account for these various components, how they appear in Sondheims work, and how they affect his musical and dramatic choices.

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Steve Swayne'sHow Sondheim Found His Soundis a fascinating treatment and remarkable analysis of America's greatest playwright in song. His marvelo. â€œSteve Swayne's How Sondheim Found His Sound is a fascinating treatment and remarkable analysis of America's greatest playwright in song. His marvelous. How Sondheim Found His Sound is the first book to provide an overview of his style and one of only a few to account for these various.

How Sondheim Found His Sound by Steve Swayne, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. Steve Swayne. How Sondheim Found His Sound. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. - Volume 19 Issue 2 - Hilary Baker.

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