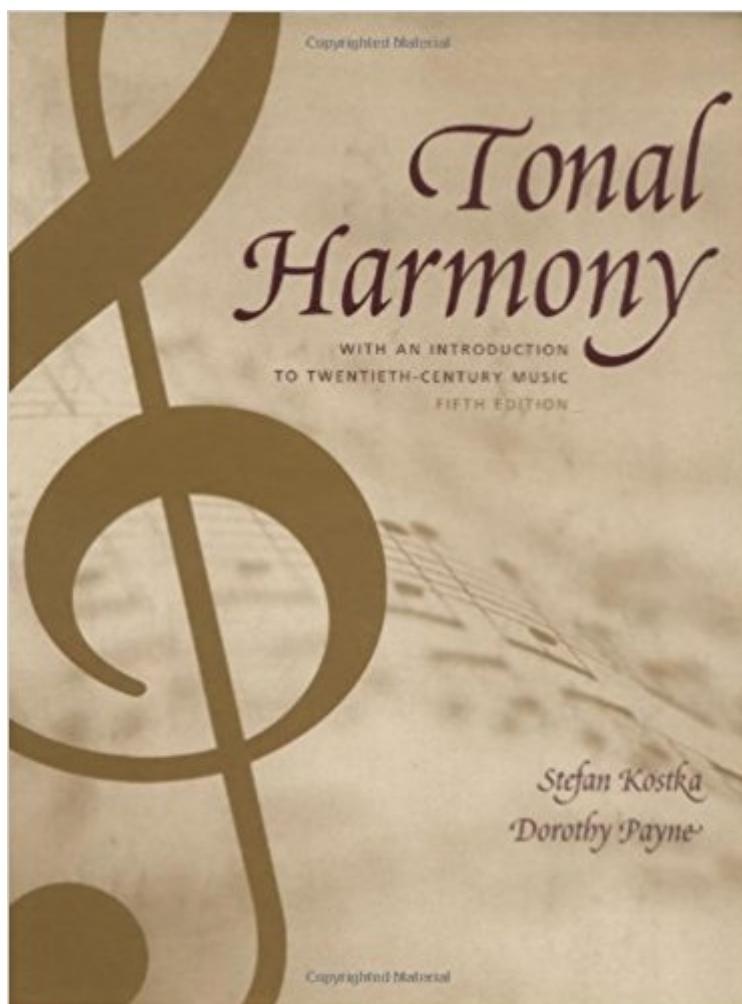


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# Tonal Harmony, With An Introduction To Twentieth-Century Music



## **Synopsis**

Designed to meet the needs of the two-year theory curriculum for music majors, this straightforward market-leading text emphasizes practicality and ease of use for both the student and the instructor. Its outstanding ancillaries, which include a collection of audio examples on CD (for both the text and workbook), Finale Workbook Software, and an extensive Instructor's Manual, round out the comprehensive teaching package.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 688 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 5th edition (June 10, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0072852607

ISBN-13: 978-0072852608

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,737 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Gospel #10 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Music #24 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music

## **Customer Reviews**

I've been a professional musician for 35 years and discovered Kosta's "Tonal Harmony" during a 13 year period in which I taught music theory in Westborough, Massachusetts. As with all textbooks, this is a supplement to teaching and should NEVER replace the teacher and student dynamic. That said, this is the best music theory text in existence. It uses simple, clear language to explain the concepts of notating organized sound and it does so brilliantly. The fundamental core of tonal understanding can be best understood through the redundancy of four part writing and Kosta makes it very clear on the do's and don'ts. One critic felt that two part writing would be easier, but to come down to guide tone lines (the chromatic 3rds and 7ths) requires a complete knowledge of four part writing, which couldn't be better explained than here. I chose my own listening examples and never used the accompanying recordings. Knowing what to use in a text book is part of being a good teacher. Using this book, every student I had who took the AP Theory exam got a 5. At least 50% of my many students took the exam and I never taught to the test. At the halfway point Kosta

introduces the dominant 7 chord which by itself can (and should) take a full semester as the pivotal understanding of Western Harmony is about secondary dominants. Studying atonalism and row tones are here too, and beautifully explained for the advanced student but the first five chapters will create very competent composers. The book opens with rhythm which can be daunting. Touching upon it and returning often will keep momentum. The best way to teach rhythm is with a pair of drumsticks and hemiola best displayed with the work of Stephen Sondheim. Composing and music theory is craft-not art and "Tonal Harmony" is the finest, comprehensive book on music theory in print. It's wonderful in class; just as great for self study. The accompanying workbook is handy but hardly necessary.

I have relied on this text in various capacities (and editions) for more than ten years now. I have found the language and sequence easy to follow and understand -- whether learning various concepts for the first time as a high school theory enthusiast, or reviewing the most salient points of form and functional harmony as a doctoral student preparing for qualifying exams. I feel fortunate to have encountered this text early, even before becoming a formal music major. I should say that this is the most recent edition of Kostka/Payne with which I'm familiar; nor have I ever had the need to consult a subsequent edition.

The book is itself intended to be a text. Other reviewers have pointed out errors which I have not yet found. I am studying theory in school, and although our text is excellent, I find this gives me an even deeper insight into the extraordinary network of harmonic relationships. The writer assumes that the student has both a short memory and is subject to confusion. In a subject less complicated than this, I might feel talked down to. Here, though, I am grateful. He reminds the reader of previously explained material, and there are plenty of cross references. I use it daily.

Fast shipment! Nice book! Love it!!!

This is the standard college text book for music theory specifically writing 4 part harmony. It has some basic music theory which applies to all types of music and goes into depth into a specific genre/period which is, as the title suggests, tonal harmony. I haven't finished reading yet but I noticed brief references to a few other forms of music in the back. I also learned in the first few pages why piano players who come from this school of thought have such a hard time charting modern music... most music majors have no choice and will be working through this book, just

remember music theory is still being developed today so this 200 year old school of thought is not the last word, just a stepping stone.

It's a book, alright. Will work for college theory. What I was looking for.

bought for my son's Music Theory class. His teacher's recommendation; therefore, I believe it is a great book.

It's a great music theory book, but there is a seventh edition out there, while the item being sold here is a fifth edition. Don't know if that matters to others, but for myself at least i'd rather buy the latest edition than an older one. Nonetheless, a lot of fascinating, enlightening, and informative material in this (text)book.

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