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Thomas Ekundayo Phillips: The Doyen of Nigerian Church Music

By Godwin Sadoh

iUniverse.com. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 200 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. The biography and music of Thomas King Ekundayo Phillips are synonymous with the history of Nigerian church music. His compositions chronicle the emergence of Nigerian church music from the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Phillipss works demonstrate the experimental stages of musical synthesis that began in the church, and in particular, elucidate the various levels of musical development and growth in Nigeria. By writing diverse musical genres, Phillips presents an array of compositional choices that are available to indigenous sacred music composers-liturgical, hymnological, choral, and instrumental pieces. Ekundayo Phillipss compositions divulge the utilization of traditional source materials in contemporary compositions. In other words, Phillipss Yoruba compositions are paradigms for employing traditional creative principles embedded in the Nigerian culture, and recombining them with modern techniques to create intercultural music. Phillips understood the problem of ethnic conflict in Nigeria; therefore, in some of his songs he calls for unity, peace, love, and national cohesion. Phillipss compositions certainly fall within the category of intercultural musicology. His compositions represent the first attempts by native Nigerian composers in the experimental synthesis of diverse musical idioms in creating a truly hybrid composition....

Reviews

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