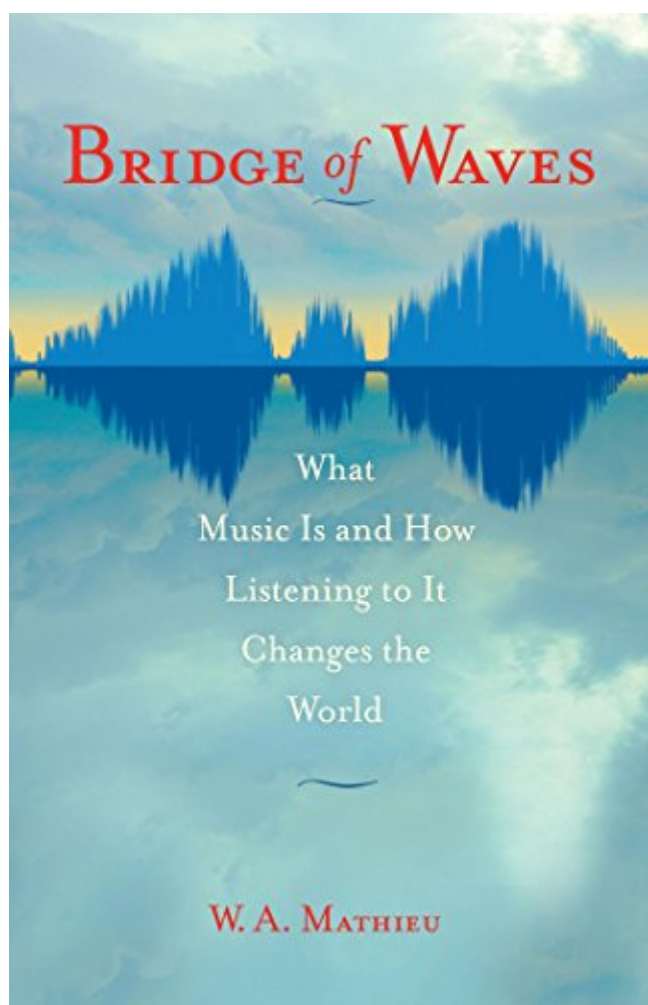


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# Bridge Of Waves: What Music Is And How Listening To It Changes The World



## Synopsis

Music is, in one sense, merely a series of fleeting vibrations that arise and subside. How could it be that something so insubstantial fills us, and calms us, and makes us weep? Because, says W. A. Mathieu, music bridges mind and heart, self and other, and affirms our place in the world. Everyone uses the bridge of music, from casual listeners to devoted professionals. Mathieu's delightful and trenchant prose asks you to question what music is, how it works, and how to understand its value in your life, in the life of your community, and in the evolution of the cosmos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book contains a few hundred pages of mostly unstructured free association. It is clear that Mathieu has a deep emotional connection to music and an interesting perspective. However, he lacks knowledge of history, human biology, acoustics, and signal processing. As such, this book provides very little factual insight and very much anecdotal poetry. If you approach this book as a source of entertainment and a description of what music means to a prolific musician and composer,

you may be satisfied. Unfortunately, if you seek knowledge or insight into what music is, or how music affects human minds and culture, you will be disappointed.

I'm joining those who wrote 5 star reviews cascading appreciation for William Allaudin Mathieu, who soars as composer, performer, writer, teacher altogether undone by music and musicking of all ages and places. Bridge sings, dances, crackles, leaps, lunges, dives deep, flies high, stays with, at once a single voice and immense chorus, an all together loving embrace and paean of gratitude for music, music-makers and teachers past and present among whom he presently shines, this book confessions of a lover who lavishly offers the gifts he has received to any and all who may welcome them. 1969: I was an expatriate New York City early music musician, had abandoned a supposed life-long career, dropping out to live on a farm in Maine, seven years later relocating in San Francisco, there falling into deep depression: I love this music-thing, but I dunno what to do here and no one who can help me! I answered a quiet ad which invited me, with others in similar distress (I felt), to gather and sit in a circle with him. He invited us all to talk and his openness, his presence loosened us all and we spoke of what had brought us to this gathering. He LISTENED, this in caps because it was a rare demonstration of a listening that drew on all the resources of body, mind, heart and soul to simply receive, without judgment, all we offered. We had a simple, delicious vegetarian lunch, then gathered in circle again, where he spoke to each in turn. The man glowed softly, not the tinsel twinkling of ME but the rainbow rays of one awakened by Love. Having truly heard each of us he spoke simply, personally, of what he heard, felt. For me it was summarized as, "You're fine as you are now; go on with your story....." I didn't then hear that gathering as music, but now do. The next summer I went to Sufi music camp, there to dance and sing, study and absorb and meet Hamza El Din, another lover-musician whose heartbeat, pristine and pure, is luminously evident through his music-making. Well then! Do visit W.A. Mathieu at Cold Mountain Music, [...]but wait! First click on [...], where, with heart-ears wide open you may hear, see and feel the joy-work of an extraordinary ordinary man who fell in Love with musicking and-----well, I imagine Allaudin being asked, "Why DO you do all this composing, playing, teaching and writing about music?" and he replying, "I can't help it."

W.A. Mathieu has written a suite of poetic, lyrical, and philosophical books about music, as well an extraordinary (and very important) book about harmony (Harmonic Experience). Bridge of Waves is a beautiful series of essays, ostensibly about music, but really a series of pithy, lovely, and pertinent

meditations about improvisation, cognitive development, aging, and just plain being in the world and living a good life. His writing is filled with spirit, wisdom, and common sense. If you are a musician, and you are willing to explore the relationship between listening and awareness, there is no better guide. If you are a music listener, this will help you listen with more depth and attention. And if you are a wisdom seeker, then Bridge of Waves will help you connect mindfulness to sound and vibration. I work in the fields of environment, sustainability, and organizational leadership. I am also an amateur musician. Bridge of Waves helps me make connections between all aspects of my life. It will do the same for you.

This is one of the most beautiful books about music I've ever read. I loved it so much it inspired me to seek out the author and take music lessons with him.

"Bridge of Waves" is without a doubt my favorite book in years! Mathieu's writing is exquisite, revelatory and inspiring. It arouses a deep (or in my case as a musician, even deeper) appreciation for the joy and wonder of music and music-making. It is a truly life-affirming, life celebrating book. Love of music, love of life, love of listening pours out of every word. It is a treasure!

Another brilliant, inspiring book by Mathieu. He keeps reminding me why I do music and why it is my spiritual journey

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