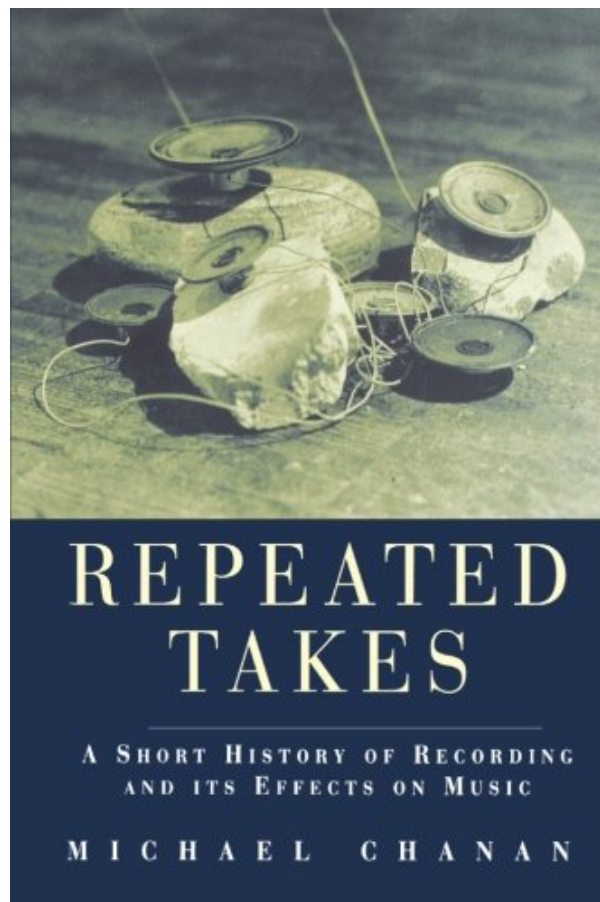
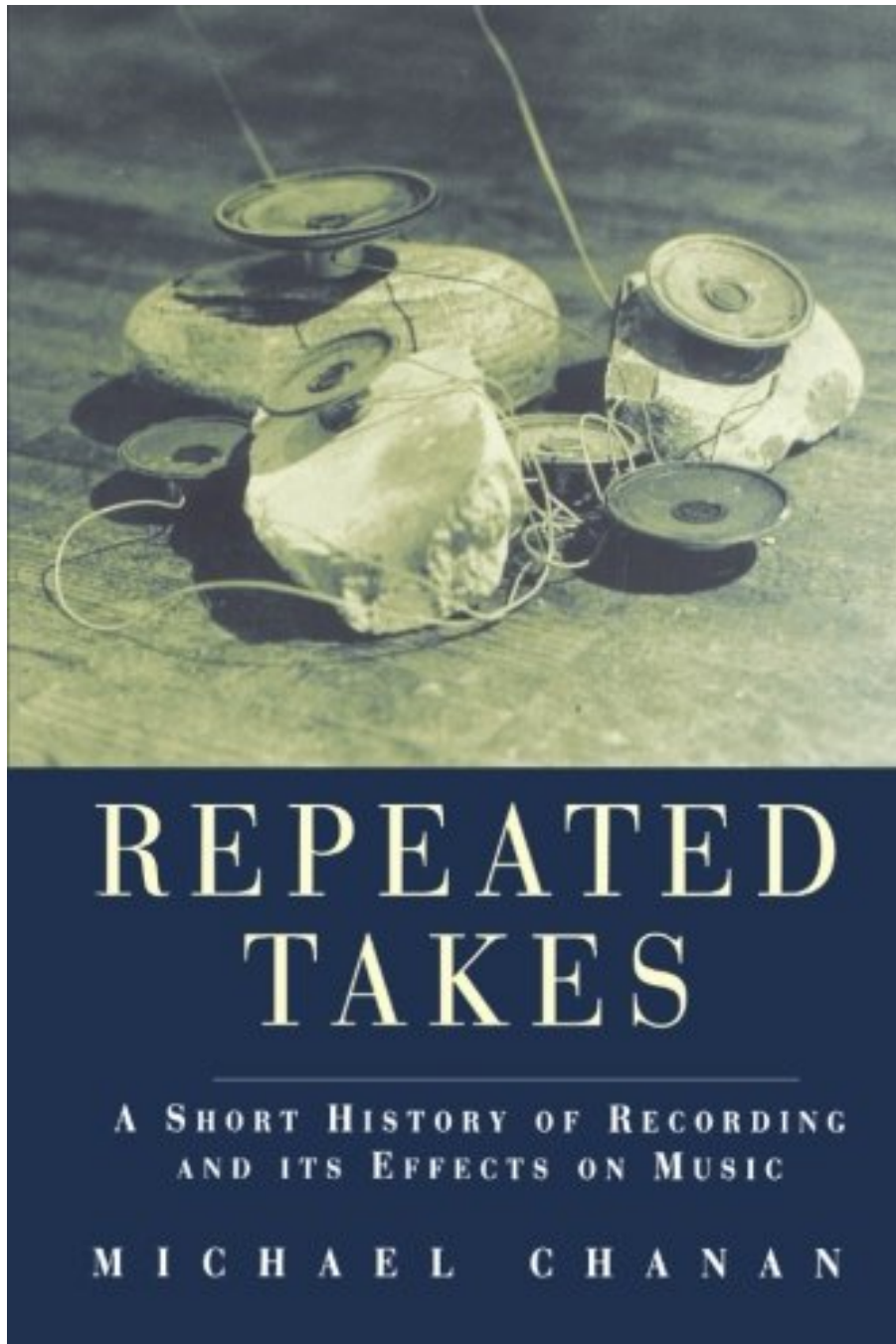


**REPEATED TAKES: A SHORT HISTORY OF
RECORDING AND ITS EFFECTS ON MUSIC
BY MICHAEL CHANAN**



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Review

“Repeated Takes is an informed journey through the parts that other music books rarely reach. It tells a story of technology, industrial change and corporate warfare. It is a fascinating book rich in reference.”—Stuart Cosgrove, Channel Four Television

About the Author

Michael Chanan is a filmmaker, writer and teacher. He has written books on various aspects of film and music, including Repeated Takes, The Dream that Kicks and The Cuban Image.

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Repeated Takes is the first general book on the history of the recording industry, covering the entire field from Edison's talking tin foil of 1877 to the age of the compact disc.

Michael Chanan considers the record as a radically new type of commodity which turned the intangible performance of music into a saleable object, and describes the upset which this caused in musical culture. He asks: What goes on in a recording studio? How does it affect the music? Do we listen to music differently because of reproduction?

Repeated Takes relates the growth and development of the industry, both technically and economically; the effects of the microphone on interpretation in both classical and popular music; and the impact of all these factors on musical styles and taste. This highly readable book also traces the connections between the development of recording and the rise of new forms of popular music, and discusses arguments among classical musicians about microphone technique and studio practice.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 214 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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When music began to be recorded, everything changed

By Cap'n Pete

This is a book about what audio recording has done to our minds, our culture, our economy, and most of all to our relationship with music. Along the way, Chanan gives an excellent short history of "phonography --" the art of recording sound, from 1902 when Caruso's voice was found to perfectly suited to drowning out surface noise, up to the '90s, when Chuck D of Public Enemy explains that the sound of New York City rap is "more of a headphone thing" because people in the Big Apple don't drive much. Songs from places where you need wheels, like Philadelphia or L.A. are made to be heard on car stereos instead.

The advent of the Edison cylinder, and later the 78 rpm disc, forever changed the fundamental relationship of musician, music, and listener. Prior to recordings, music was etherial, gone forever when the performance was over, and known only to those who were there. When music became a commodity, the performance was separated from a time and place. Moreover, it provided a way to "notate" musical forms (like the blues) that had been transmitted only in person.

Early on, it became apparent that there was big money to be made if one had a hit record -- Caruso personally made over \$2 million between 1902 and 1921, when he died -- and corporations were quick to start what we now know as the Record Business. Chanan describes the confluence of technology, copyright law, and popular culture that has made the music scene what it is today: a massive multinational machine, that requires a steady stream of fresh, disposable product.

We are musically different creatures then our ancestors of a century ago. A hundred years ago, no one could have imagined music being used as aural furniture, as it is in an elevator, airport, or dentist's office. Not a single one of our great-great-grandparents ever had the experience of intimately *knowing* a performance as we do -- of having the first note of an overheard Motown song germinate inside your head with 20 years worth of memories, and "hearing" every nuance of horn, snare, and reverb before they occur.

This isn't a book that one blows through in a hurry. I had to keep stopping to reread sentences and let them sink in, and adjust to some new perspective on a topic I thought I knew all about. My modest recording studio seems different now; somehow more powerful and more miraculous. I don't know if I'm a better phonographer for having read *Repeated Takes*, but I do know a lot more about the implications of pressing "Record."

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Print-on-demand edition

By W. Boning

This book by Michael Chanan presents a brief but fascinating history of recording's influence on the development of music.

However, it was sent as a poor-quality print-on-demand edition, which was not made clear in the product page. Please make sure the edition you are receiving is an authentic publication before purchase.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Repeated Takes Text Book

By Esthetitech

Loads of information. Only wish I had the complimentary book, *Musica Practica*, for my research paper. Would have rounded out the information in *Repeated Takes*.

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