



Wagner and Aeschylus: The Ring and the Oresteia (Paperback)

By Michael Ewans

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, United Kingdom, 2009.
 Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reissue. 212 x 140 mm.
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 In 1847 Wagner read the Oresteian trilogy, the finest surviving work by Aeschylus. The impact on him of Aeschylus work, at this crucial time in his development, changed Wagner s entire vision of his own role as an artist. As he wrote in his autobiography: I could actually see the Oresteia with my mind s eye, as though it were actually being performed and its effect on me was indescribable. My ideas about the significance of drama and of the theatre were, without a doubt, moulded by these impressions . Wagner and Aeschylus examines the role that the Oresteia played in the shaping of the Ring, showing how Aeschylus masterpiece influenced Wagner s at many levels, from the basic idea of using mythical material for a cycle of stage festival dramas right through to profound aspects of subject matter and form and Wagner s conception of the role of music in opera. Two introductory chapters look at the overall relationship between Wagner and Aeschylus; there follows an analysis of the four dramas of the Ring: the...



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