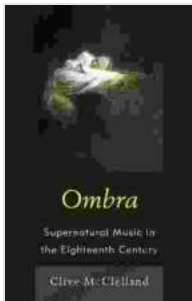


# Ombra: The Supernatural Music of the Eighteenth Century

In the eighteenth century, music was often used to create a sense of the supernatural. This was particularly true in opera, where composers and performers used a variety of techniques to create an atmosphere of mystery and horror. One of the most common ways to create a sense of the supernatural was through the use of the glass harmonica, an instrument that produces a haunting and ethereal sound.



## Ombra: Supernatural Music in the Eighteenth Century

by Clive McClelland

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The glass harmonica was invented in 1761 by Benjamin Franklin. It is made of a series of glass bowls that are rotated by a foot pedal. The performer's fingers are moistened and then rubbed around the rims of the bowls, producing a sound that is both beautiful and eerie.

The glass harmonica was quickly adopted by composers and performers as a way to create a sense of the supernatural. One of the most famous examples of the use of the glass harmonica in opera is Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*. In this opera, the glass harmonica is used to create a sense of mystery and wonder in the Queen of the Night's aria "Ombra mai fu." Mozart also used the glass harmonica in his opera *Don Giovanni*, to create a sense of horror in the scene where the Commendatore's ghost appears.

In addition to the glass harmonica, composers and performers also used other techniques to create a sense of the supernatural in music. These techniques included the use of unusual harmonies, dissonances, and rhythms; the use of instruments that were associated with the supernatural, such as the wolf; and the use of sound effects, such as wind and thunder.

The supernatural has always been a source of fascination for human beings, and music has been used for centuries to create a sense of the supernatural. In the eighteenth century, composers and performers used music to create a variety of supernatural effects, from the ethereal sounds of the glass harmonica to the eerie howls of the wolf. These techniques were used to create an atmosphere of mystery and horror, and to explore the darker side of human nature.

### **Examples of Supernatural Music in the Eighteenth Century**

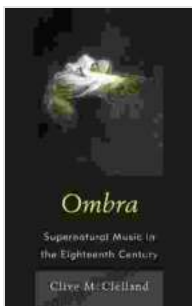
Here are a few examples of supernatural music from the eighteenth century:

- **"Ombra mai fu" from Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*:** This aria is sung by the Queen of the Night, and it is one of the most famous examples of the use of the glass harmonica in opera. The aria is about the Queen of the Night's desire for revenge, and it creates a sense of mystery and wonder through the use of the glass harmonica and the Queen of the Night's soaring vocal line.
- **"The Wolf" from Weber's opera *Der Freischütz*:** This aria is sung by the character of Kaspar, and it is one of the most famous examples of the use of the wolf in opera. The aria is about Kaspar's desire to use magic to win the hand of his beloved, and it creates a sense of horror through the use of the wolf's howls and the eerie accompaniment.

- **"The Storm" from Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*:** This movement from Haydn's oratorio is one of the most famous examples of the use of sound effects in music. The movement depicts a storm, and it uses a variety of instruments to create a realistic and terrifying soundscape.

These are just a few examples of the many ways in which composers and performers used music to create a sense of the supernatural in the eighteenth century. This music is a testament to the power of music to evoke emotions and to create a sense of wonder and horror.

Ombra, the supernatural music of the eighteenth century, is a fascinating and elusive concept. This music is a testament to the power of music to evoke emotions and to create a sense of wonder and horror. Whether it is the ethereal sounds of the glass harmonica or the eerie howls of the wolf, the supernatural music of the eighteenth century is sure to leave a lasting impression on the listener.



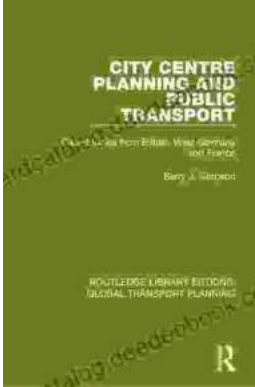
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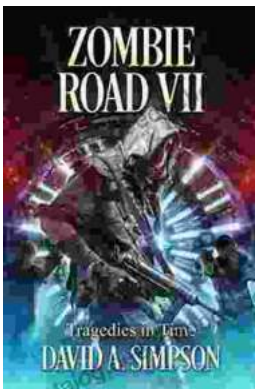
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