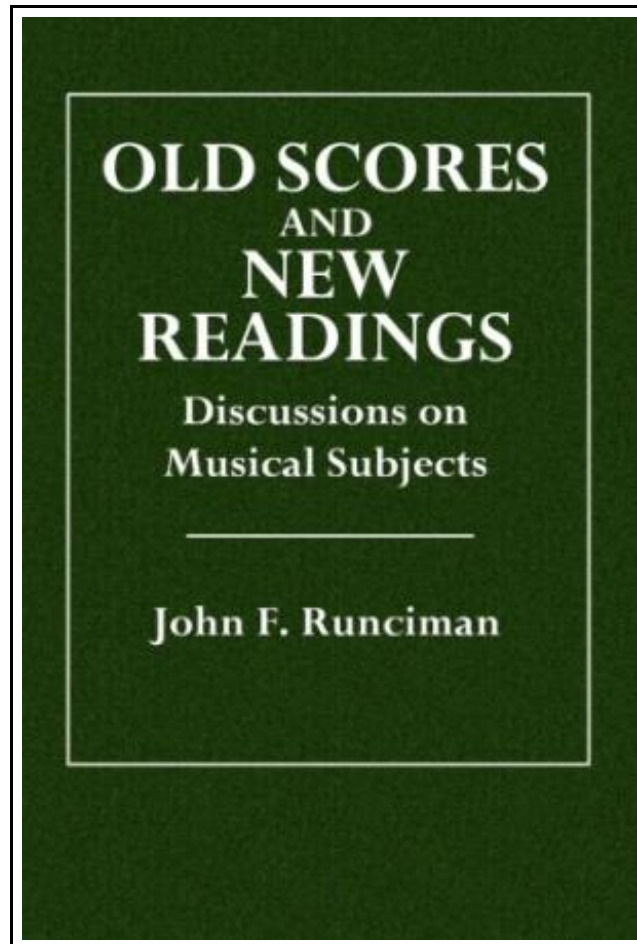


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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Mr. Runciman s Old Scores and New Readings is a collection of entertaining papers on musical topics which must be cordially commended to the attention of all lovers of the art who like to be stimulated to thought, and are not afraid to be shocked once in a while by an opinion outrageously opposed to everything they have ever heard and believed. The author is one of the leaders among the new school of English critics who are making life a burden to Joseph Bennett and other veterans in the profession. Early in his career he involved the Saturday Review in a law suit by some indiscretion. That was six years ago, and he has since toned down a little; yet he is not afraid to refer, in the book now before us, to one of the English idols, the late eminent MacFarren, as the worst enemy music has ever had in England; and he will arouse much indignation by his remarks on the Messiah. Not that he underrates that oratorio or its composer; be rather overrates them; but he tells his countrymen bluntly (and truly) that the real Messiah is practically unknown, and that its vogue in the provinces is due to the fact that it has become a Christmas institution, like plum pudding and mince pie. Greatly as he admires Handel-the real Handel-Mr. Runciman points out his enormous debt to Purcell, England s last great musician (1658-95), and quotes with approval Burney s opinion that, in the accent of passion, and expression of English words, the vocal music of Purcell is. as superior to Handel s as an original poem to a translation. Mr. Runciman s...



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