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Southeast Asia Head Office
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

South Asia Head Office
8/123, Third Street,
Tatabad, Coimbatore â€ 641012
India
Tel : +91-422-2499030/2495780
Fax : +91-422-2495781
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Searches for Tradition : Essays on New Zealand Music, Past and Present / (Eds)
Michael Brown & Samantha Owens

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In Douglas Lilburn's famous address to the 1946 Cambridge Summer School of Music, the composer described his 'search for tradition' in the music of New Zealand and spelled out his hopes that a distinctive art music might yet emerge here. Sixty years on, this collection of scholarly essays brings together various perspectives on what 'tradition' means in the context of the music of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Searches for Tradition presents case studies drawn from a broad spectrum of genres, cultures and historical periods, from investigations of New Zealand's colonial music to fresh consideration of Lilburn's legacy, from corners of the jazz scene to the contemporary revitalization of taonga puoro. The focus on 'tradition' leads in some instances to critical issues of nationalism and biculturalism, while others uncover little-discussed aspects of local music history, performance practice or composition. It will be stimulating reading for all enthusiasts of New Zealand music's past, present and future.

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