

**TREATISE ON  
CANON  
AND FUGUE**

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Treatise on Canon and Fugue by Ernst Friedrich Richter

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**ERNST FRIEDRICH RICHTER**

**TREATISE ON  
CANON  
AND FUGUE**



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OR  
CANON AND FUGUE.

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED FROM THE GERMAN OF

ERNST FRIEDRICH RICHTER,

BY

FRANKLIN TAYLOR.



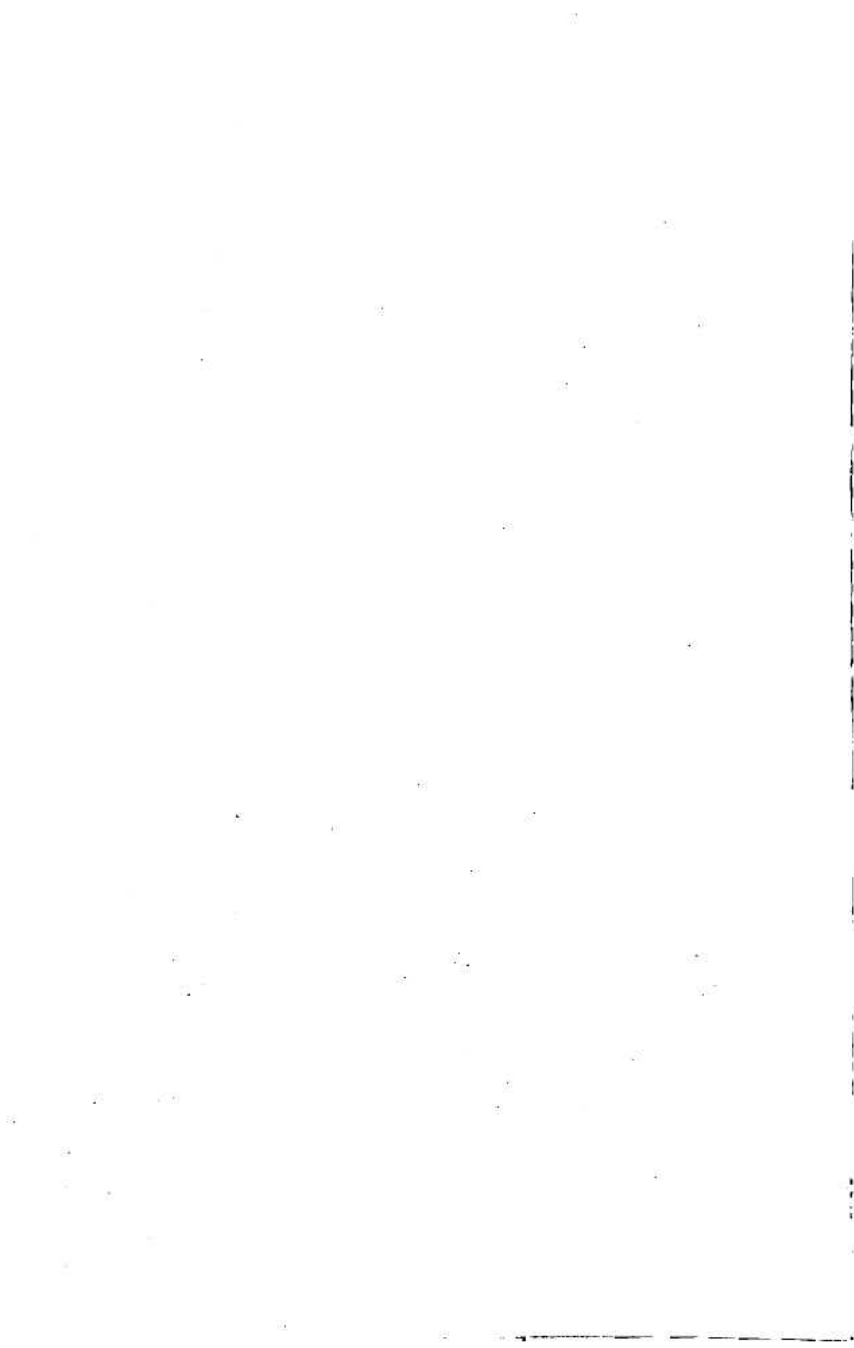
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## PREFACE.

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THE following translation of the "*Lehrbuch der Fuge*," by E. F. Richter, forms the third and concluding volume of the author's "*Praktische Studien zur Theorie der Musik*," and is intended to follow the Treatise on Harmony and that on Counterpoint, both of which are already published. At the same time, being complete in itself, it may be used independently of the foregoing works, by the student who has already sufficiently mastered the subjects of which they treat.

The first edition of the original work was published in 1859, and the results of its use by the author in practical tuition during the period which elapsed before the publication of the third edition (in 1874) were so uniformly satisfactory as to prove that no change in the general plan of the work was required. In one respect alone was it necessary to make any essential alteration, namely, in the method of treating the construction of the answer to a fugue-subject in a major key. In the original work this was made to depend entirely upon the correspondence of Tonic and Dominant, according to the teachings of the earlier masters, but in the second edition the chapter on this subject was almost entirely re-written, greater stress being laid on the relation to each other of the thirds of the principal chords of the scale.

On this point it may be well to quote from the author's preface to the second edition. He says—"The want of uniformity in the method of constructing Answers in major and in minor had always struck me as an obvious weakness. While in the formation of the answer in minor the significance of the thirds of the three principal



chords was held to be of chief importance, the construction of major answers followed for the most part the old methods, which, as in so many other cases, doubtless arrived at the right result, but followed a circuitous path, and passed over or failed to recognise the very pith of the matter. The clear and lucid views of the same subject published a few years ago by my revered friend, Dr. Hauptmann, afforded me the satisfaction of finding that I had already discovered for myself the most important principles, but with this difference, that I had not applied, as he did, those principles which appeared to me so essential in the formation of minor answers, to the construction of answers in major. In the present edition this has been accomplished, and I am in hopes that through the resulting uniformity of explanation, the subject, in itself a difficult one, will be found to have been treated more intelligibly."

As regards the present translation, it has been my endeavour to follow the original as strictly as possible, making only such slight alterations in the general arrangement of the book as appeared desirable, with a view to greater perspicuity. Accordingly, the division of the book into its different chapters has been slightly modified, and some of the examples have been re-written and amplified, while for the sake of conciseness some few paragraphs, generally of a critical rather than a practical nature, have been omitted. In all other respects the translation may be said to be literal.

FRANKLIN TAYLOR.

*London, 1878.*

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