



Juha Markus Mantere

## The Gould Variations

Technology, Philosophy  
and Criticism in Glenn Gould's  
Musical Thought and Practice



PETER LANG

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	5
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS .....	9
INTRODUCTION .....	11
The Legacy of Gould .....	19
Musicology on Gould .....	24
Historical and Local Hermeneutics.....	31
Research Material .....	37
Research on Gould.....	39
Structure of the Book.....	43
CHAPTER ONE	
Musicology Without Musicians .....	45
History Viewed Through Ethnography .....	48
Music That Does Not Speak .....	55
Musicians Considered Musicologically.....	60
CHAPTER TWO	
Who Owns the Music?.....	63
Gould's Rejection of Tradition.....	64
Authenticity in Gould's Interpretation of Music.....	67
The Priority of Structure in Music .....	73
The Ahistorical Aesthetics of Works of Music .....	80
Gould the Postmodern?.....	85
CHAPTER THREE	
High Fidelity – To What?.....	91
Agency in Recordings.....	96
Gould's Phonographic Ideal of Musical Interpretation.....	100
The Anonymity and Ahistoricity of Technology.....	104
Re-creative Listener .....	107
Benjamin's Technological Democracy .....	110
The Aura of a Musical Work.....	112
Vattimo and "Homeless Artworks" .....	116
Gould and McLuhan .....	118
Gould's Technological Ethics .....	123
Gould's Ideas in the Present.....	127

## CHAPTER FOUR

Musical Interpretation as Criticism: Philosophical Perspectives on Gould's Music-Making .....	133
Four Adornian Windows .....	139
The Culture Industry .....	142
Music as a Private Art Form .....	155
The Challenge of the Modern .....	160
Schoenberg and Stravinsky .....	163
The Idea of Criticism .....	167
Gould's Criticism at Work: Case Mozart .....	171

## CHAPTER FIVE

The Ethics of Isolation – The Idea of North as a Hermeneutic Window on Gould's Musical Thinking .....	175
Meanings of North in Canada .....	179
Gould's Construction of the North .....	183
The North in Music .....	189
Arctic Resonances .....	194
The Shadow of Hanslick .....	198
Gould's North as an Aesthetic Category .....	205

## CHAPTER SIX

The Afterlife of Gould .....	207
"Glenn Gould" as a Representation .....	208
Who's Playing the Goldbergs for Me – Gould or Hannibal? .....	210
"Gould's" Story in Literature .....	222
Gould in Poetry .....	227
"Glenn Gould" as a Novel Character .....	232
Conclusions .....	240

## EPILOGUE

Did He Get it Right 50 Years Ago? .....	245
---	-----

BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	249
--------------------	-----