

# **Adventures of an American Composer**

Michael Colgrass

**\$19.95**

**Meredith Music**

This 221-page autobiography of a gifted percussionist and composer is an excellent addition to Michael Colgrass' already-distinguished Pulitzer Prize-winning career. His unique writing style reflects his perspective of "Dreamer-Realist-Critic" and provides three logical divisions for his life: Part I, 1942–1949; Part II, 1950–1966; and Part III, 1967–present.

Among the sage, inspirational quotes is one from his son, Neal, who at age eight said: "Michael, there's a big difference between the way you see yourself and the way you really are." Michael continues: "So I decided to write about interesting episodes in my life instead—pivotal stories that readers can piece

together to form a picture of me and the creative generation to which I belong.”

This autobiography—edited by Michael’s wife, Ulla, and his son, Neal—is a fun-filled, easy read that contains masterful storytelling from Colgrass’ life in music. Each of the 88 short chapters has a revealing subtitle, such as “Who’s Rousseau?,” “I’m a Composer!” and “You Oughta Be on Facebook.” Through these insightfully compelling adventures, we gain additional appreciation for Colgrass’ background and creative genius. This autobiography will prove to be an enormously inspiring documentation of one of the most talented composers of the past century.

—*Jim Lambert*

PERCUSSIVE NOTES 52 MAY 2010