Fred Lerdahl and Ray Jackendoff. A Generative Theory of Tonal Music brings together a range of ideas that are of common interest to music theorists, musicologists, and linguists. It offers many improvements over previous work. This book is not only a good reduction of the surface of musical perception, but it also introduces a new perspective on the structure of music. The book is divided into three parts: The point of departure is a search for a grammar of music with the aid of generative linguistics. The theory, which is illustrated with numerous examples from Western classical music, relates the aural surface of a piece to the musical structure unconsciously inferred by the experienced listener. A Generative Theory of Tonal Music, which has 40 ratings and 1 review, sets out to answer the question of how music is perceived, and it offers a unique and insightful perspective on the subject.