

**JOHN CAGE THE INDIVIDUAL
and
HIS MUSIC**

**AN ABSTRACT OF
A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
OF DANBURY STATE COLLEGE**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
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MASTER OF SCIENCE**

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The research study on John Cage, twentieth century avant-garde composer explores both the man and his music as well as their effect on the status of the composer, the performer and the listener.

The biography reveals periods of Mr. Cage's life including his early childhood exposure to music as well as his ideas and experiences as a philosopher, composer, teacher, lecturer, and mycologist.

A detailed explanation of the concepts and ideas which specifically influenced John Cage's thoughts regarding composition are presented and documented.

Numerous aspects of John Cage's many styles of composition are studied in relation to the influences referred to above, as well as his own thoughts about the composition of music and its purposes. Mr. Cage's unorthodox methods of composition and notation are explained in detail with numerous examples cited in the appendixes.

The conclusions drawn from the study point out that Mr. Cage, although regarded as an extremely controversial composer is in effect attempting to make society aware of the fact that the true function of the arts in our time is to open up the mind and heart of contemporary man and make him aware of the immense number of things occurring at a particular moment. In the field of music each person involved whether as composer, performer or listener is experiencing a

personal approach to music which inwardly creates different individualistic moods and new experiences.