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Sommario/riassunto

Drawing on hundreds of operas, singspiels, ballets, and plays with supernatural themes, *Magic Flutes and Enchanted Forests* argues that the tension between fantasy and Enlightenment-era rationality shaped some of the most important works of eighteenth-century musical theatre and profoundly influenced how audiences and critics responded to them. David J. Buch reveals that despite-and even because of-their fundamental irrationality, fantastic and exotic themes acquired extraordinary force and popularity during the period, pervading theatrical works with music in the French, German, and Italian.