

# CULTURE, *et cetera*

## Music lesson

"No other artistic medium moves us the way sound waves do, and in that regard music's meaning is emotional, in the word's original sense. The languages of music and emotion are remarkably similar; indeed, the link between musical mode and emotional mood has been the subject of philosophical inquiry and censorious dogma for centuries. Certain modes of music were to be kept out of Plato's ideal State because they evoked sorrowful or ungraceful or indolent feelings (Socrates: 'When modes of music change, the fundamental laws of the state always change with them.'). Saint Augustine feared the power of music to overwhelm the spiritual message of the hymns it accompanied, and this fear led the Church to pronounce certain musical modes — and even certain melodic intervals — dissonant and unlawful. Soviet censors, too, were notorious: they tried, for example, to keep Shostakovich's lugubrious



Music's power has caused fear throughout history among those threatened by emotions, from Plato to St. Augustine to Soviet censors.

dissonances (and their political overtones) in check."

— Toby Lester, writing in the April issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*

## The market

"The market is not a place or person or a conspiracy. It is a process — a continuously adapting system of trial and error, experiment and feedback, freedom and responsibility. It rewards both discipline and risk taking, creativity and deferred gratification, foresight and learning from the past. The market process makes possible not only commercial activity but the countless voluntary associations that arise spontaneously when people are allowed the freedom to form their own bonds. Because it depends not on predetermined status but on contract — on choice and consent — the market is liberating. But it is not, as its critics charge, 'atomistic,' except in the sense that atoms have a tendency to form molecules, which in turn create larger structures."

— Virginia I. Postrel, writing in the April issue of *Reason*

book expose snapshots

