

**PHILIP BALL**, a renowned scientist and science communicator, has spent years at *Nature*, exploring the boundaries between physics, chemistry, and creativity. With *The Music Instinct: How Music Works and Why We Can't Do Without it* (Vintage) - *L'istinto musicale* (Dedalo), he uncovers the hidden mechanisms behind our perception of music, intertwining psychology, philosophy, mathematics, and neurology. A fascinating journey from Bach to Jimi Hendrix, jazz to nursery rhymes, to understand why music is essential to our existence.