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Three Pillars of Modern Western Culture

William H. Pastor

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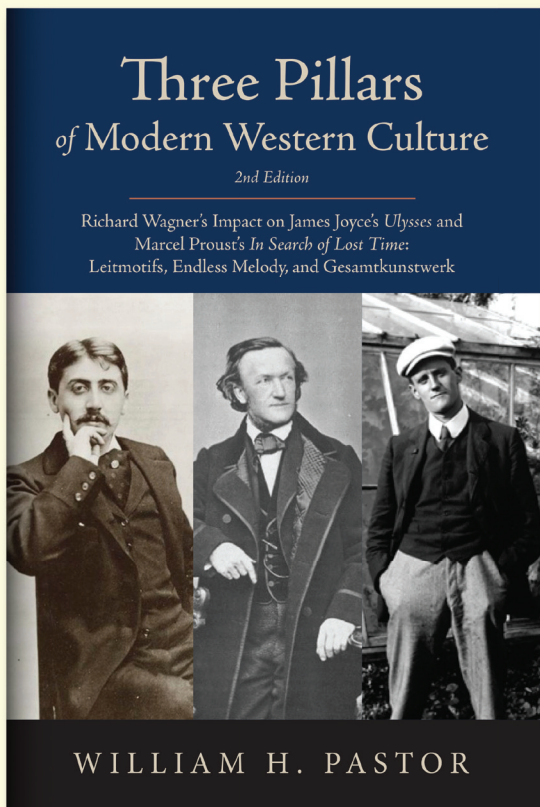
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Three Pillars of Modern Western Culture

Richard Wagner's Impact on James Joyce's *Ulysses* and
Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*:
Leitmotifs, Endless Melody, and Gesamtkunstwerk

by William H. Pastor

Richard Wagner's music dramas created a seismic shift in Western culture and changed the artistic landscape of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Three of Wagner's artistic innovations, *leitmotifs*, endless melody,

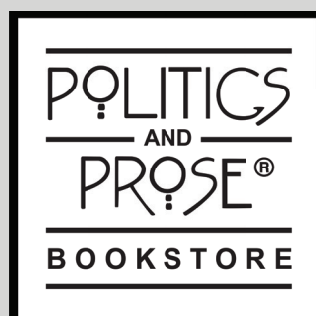
and *Gesamtkunstwerk*, played a major role in the development of Modern literature. This book, *Three Pillars of Modern Western Culture*, focuses on Wagner's influence on two literary masterpieces of the early twentieth century: James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. In particular, this work illustrates how the techniques and principles of *leitmotifs*, endless melody, and *Gesamtkunstwerk* are incorporated throughout *Ulysses* and *In Search of Lost Time*. My hope is to stimulate interest among music-loving Wagnerians to read the novels *Ulysses* and *In Search of Lost Time* and to stimulate interest among literary-loving Joyce and Proust enthusiasts to listen to the music of Wagner. For those in both camps, I hope to enrich the appreciation of the historic and artistic connection between these three pillars of Western aesthetics and culture. For those not in any of these groups, this is an opportunity for a trifecta.

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