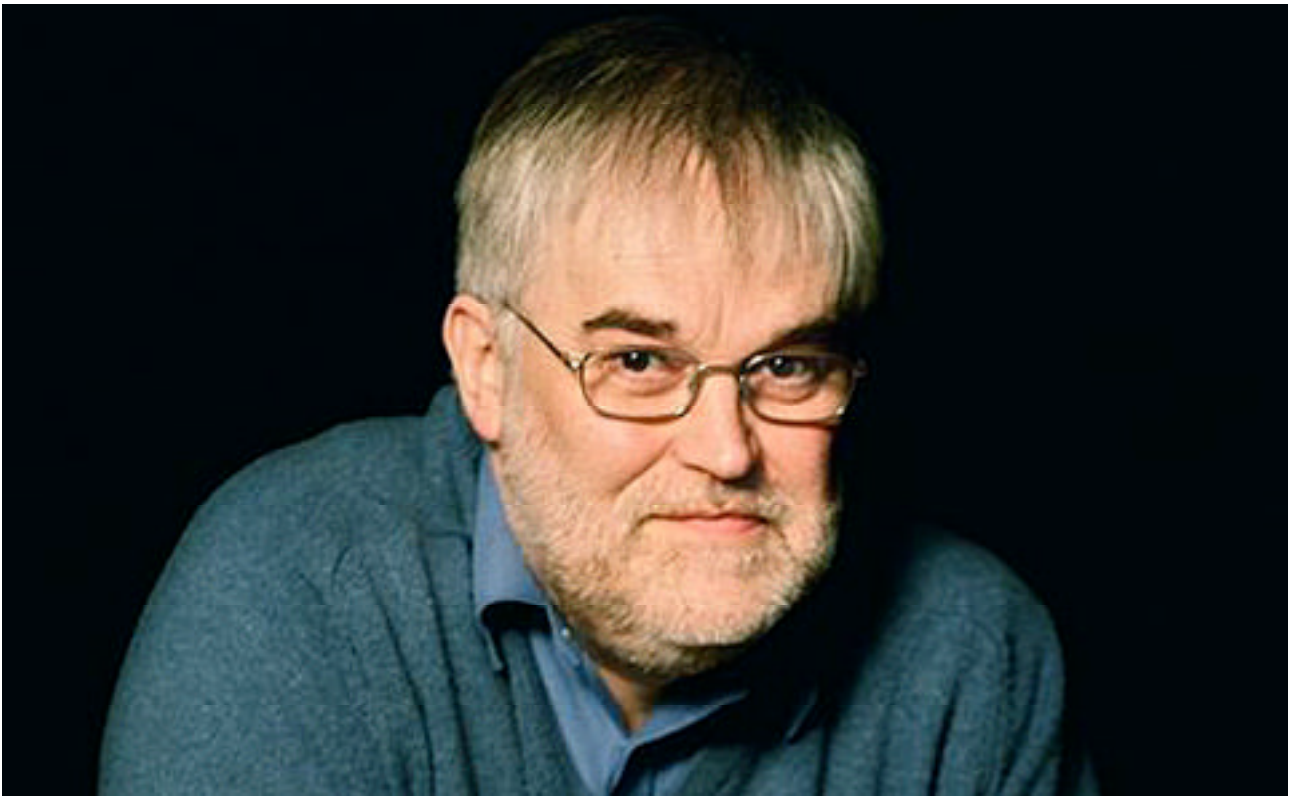




ADAM OCKELFORD

As an atheist, I don't believe that music has any spiritual significance. In my opinion, what people take to be the spiritual element of music results from an emotional reaction that they take to be spiritual. However, I passionately believe in respecting the religious views of those who hold them, where these do not have a deleterious effect on others and if, in their view, music has a spirituality that supports worship and connectedness with their God or Gods, so be it. By the way, I see no inconsistency in the deep pleasure that I gain from listening to the music of J. S. Bach, for example, who would sign off pieces "*Soli Deo Gloria*", since the meaning of the music, like all music, can be appreciated in different ways, and is ultimately a personal thing. And to those who believe that music can be spiritual, I say "*good for you*".



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