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The Vintage Guide to Classical Music: An Indispensable Guide for Understanding and Enjoying Classical Music

By Jan Swafford



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The most readable and comprehensive guide to enjoying over five hundred years of classical music -- from Gregorian chants, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Johannes Brahms, Igor Stravinsky, John Cage, and beyond.

The Vintage Guide to Classical Music is a lively -- and opinionated -- musical history and an insider's key to the personalities, epochs, and genres of the Western classical tradition. Among its features:

- chronologically arranged essays on nearly 100 composers, from Guillaume de Machaut (ca. 1300-1377) to Aaron Copland (1900-1990), that combine biography with detailed analyses of the major works while assessing their role in the social, cultural, and political climate of their times;
- informative sidebars that clarify broader topics such as melody, polyphony, atonality, and the impact of the early-music movement;
- a glossary of musical terms, from a cappella to woodwinds;
- a step-by-step guide to building a great classical music library.

Written with wit and a clarity that both musical experts and beginners can appreciate, The Vintage Guide to Classical Music is an invaluable source-book for music lovers everywhere.



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- Sales Rank: #28624 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 1992-12-15
- Released on: 1992-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.99" h x 1.24" w x 5.16" l, 1.27 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 624 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Composer and writer Jan Swafford received degrees from Harvard and the Yale School of Music; his work has been played throughout the United States and abroad. Among his awards are an NEA Composers Grant, a Tanglewood Fellowship and a Mellon Faculty Fellowship at Harvard.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Perez:

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