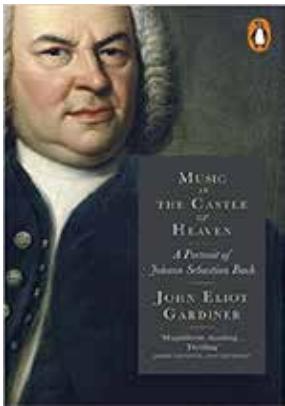


suggestions for reading



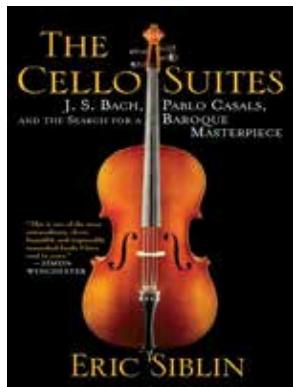
Bach: Music in the Castle of Heaven

by John Elliot Gardiner

Vintage Press (2015), ISBN: 978-1400031436

Available as an eBook.

Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the most unfathomable composers in the history of music. How can such sublime work have been produced by a man who seems so ordinary, so opaque - and occasionally so intemperate? In this remarkable book, John Eliot Gardiner distils the fruits of a lifetime's immersion as one of Bach's greatest living interpreters. Explaining in wonderful detail how Bach worked and how his music achieves its effects, he also takes us as deeply as perhaps words can into Bach's works and mind. The result is a unique book about one of the greatest of all creative artists. Gardiner's background as a historian has encouraged him to search for ways in which scholarship and performance can cooperate and fruitfully coalesce. This has entailed piecing together the few biographical shards, scrutinizing the music, and watching for those instances when Bach's personality seems to penetrate the fabric of his notation. It is very rare that such an accomplished performer of music should also be a considerable writer and thinker about it.



The Cello Suites: J. S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece

by Eric Siblin

Grove Press (2011), ISBN: 978-0802145246

Available as an eBook.

One evening, not long after ending a stint as the pop music critic at the *Montreal Gazette*, Eric Siblin attended a recital of Bach's *Cello Suites*. There, something unlikely happened: he fell deeply in love with the music. So began an epic quest that would unravel three centuries of intrigue, politics, and passion. Part biography, part music history, and part mystery, *The Cello Suites* weaves together three dramatic narratives: Bach's composition of the suites and the manuscript's subsequent disappearance in the eighteenth century; Pablo Casals's historic discovery of the music in Spain in the late nineteenth century and his popularization of the suites several decades later; and Siblin's own infatuation with the suites at the dawn of the twenty-first century. As Siblin pursues the mysteries that continue to haunt this music more than 250 years after its composer's death, he asks the questions that have stumped modern scholars: why did Bach compose the suites for the cello, which was considered a lowly instrument in his day? And what happened to the original manuscript of the suites, which vanished after being hastily copied by Bach's second wife? Included in his thorough research are interviews with cellists such as Mischa Maisky and Anner Bylsma, who describe the complexities of the music and the challenges it presents to the soloist.

suggestions for reading



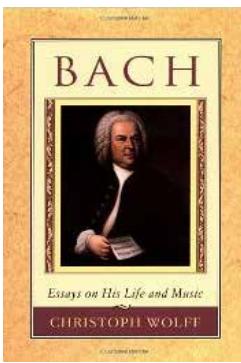
Evening in the Palace of Reason: Bach Meets Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment

by James R. Gaines

Harper Perennial (2006); ISBN-13: 978-0007156610

Available as an eBook.

Johann Sebastian Bach created what may be the most celestial and profound body of music in history; Frederick the Great built the colossus we now know as Germany, and along with it a template for modern warfare. Their fleeting encounter in 1747 signals a unique moment in history where belief collided with the cold certainty of reason. Set at the tipping point between the ancient and modern world, *Evening in the Palace of Reason* captures the tumult of the eighteenth century, the legacy of the Reformation, and the birth of the Enlightenment in this extraordinary tale of two men.

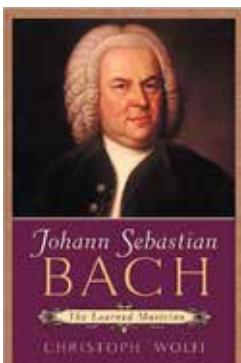


Bach: Essays on His Life and Music

by Christoph Wolff

Harvard University Press (1994); ISBN-13: 978-0674059269

Bach's life and work has been of interest to musicians and scholars for over 200 years. This collection of essays by Christoph Wolff illuminates aspects of Bach's life through his music. Written over a 25-year period, the essays are documented in an extensive bibliography and have been updated with postscripts when necessary. Whenever possible, Wolff has gone directly to Bach's manuscripts to form his theses. For example, the question of the final "unfinished" fugue in the *Art of the Fugue* is resolved by notes in Bach's own hand that were revealed by infra-red photography. The book is illustrated with facsimiles, tables, and musical examples. Although it contains considerable technical material, it is largely accessible to the knowledgeable layperson and will be welcomed by serious students and performers.



Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician

by Christoph Wolff

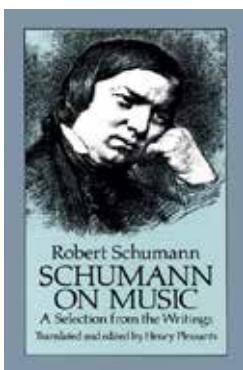
W. W. Norton & Company (2001); ISBN-13: 978-0393322569

Available as an eBook.

Finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in Biography. A landmark biography of Bach on the 250th anniversary of the composer's death, written by the leading Bach scholar of our age.

Although we have heard the music of J. S. Bach in countless performances and recordings, the composer himself still comes across only as an enigmatic figure in a single familiar portrait. Bach scholar and author Christoph Wolff presents a new picture that brings to life this towering figure of the Baroque era. This engaging new biography portrays Bach as the living, breathing, and sometimes imperfect human being that he was, while bringing to bear all the advances of the last half-century of Bach scholarship. Wolff demonstrates the intimate connection between the composer's life and his music, showing how Bach's superb inventiveness pervaded his career as musician, composer, performer, scholar, and teacher. And throughout, we see Bach in the broader context of his time: its institutions, traditions, and influences. With this highly readable book, Wolff sets a new standard for Bach biography.

suggestions for reading



Robert Schumann: Schumann on Music - A Selection From The Writings

Translated and edited by Henry Pleasants

Dover Publications (2011); ISBN: 978-0486257488

Available as an eBook.

In addition to his genius as a composer, Schumann was a gifted critic who wrote perceptive essays, articles, and reviews for his influential musical journal, *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik*. Written from 1834 to 1844, these 61 pieces include evaluations of Beethoven, Chopin, Schubert, and other giants. Articles appear in chronological order with ample annotations.



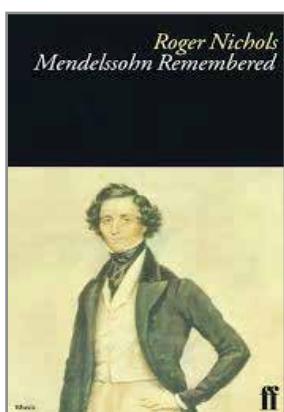
Clara Schumann: The Artist and the Woman

by Nancy B. Reich

Cornell University Press (2001), ISBN: 978-0801486371

Available as an eBook.

This absorbing biography tells the story of the tragedies and triumphs of Clara Schumann, a musician of remarkable achievements. At once artist, composer, editor, teacher, wife, and mother of eight children, she was an important force in the musical world of her time. To show how Clara surmounted the obstacles facing female artists in the 19th century, Reich has drawn on previously unexplored primary sources: unpublished diaries, letters, and family papers, as well as concert programs. Going beyond the familiar legends of the Schumann literature, she applies the tools of musicological scholarship and the insights of psychology to provide a new, full-scale portrait.



Mendelssohn Remembered

by Roger Nichols

Faber & Faber; ASIN: 0571149863; (June 2001)

Excellent book with material about Mendelssohn written by people who knew him and contemporaries who wrote about him. Presents a very personal picture of the man, his influence, his family and his times. Although he died before his fortieth birthday, Felix Mendelssohn's accomplishments were many, beginning with his composition of a piano sonata in G minor at the age of eleven, and of his first symphony at the age of fifteen. Best known as a composer, he was also a conductor, musicologist, teacher, painter, caricaturist, philosopher, founder of a conservatory in Leipzig, husband, and the father of five children. To examine the many facets of Mendelssohn's character and to display the strikingly modern tone of his ideas on teaching, composition, and philosophy, Roger Nichols has culled excerpts from the letters, journals, reviews, and recorded conversations of a wide variety of Mendelssohn's family, friends, and acquaintances, including Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Hector Berlioz, Frédéric Chopin, Robert and Clara Schumann, Richard Wagner, and Queen Victoria.

suggestions for viewing



Twin Spirits: Sting performs Schumann

Cast includes: Trudie Styler, Natalie Clein, Peter Mumford, Sting, Sergej Krylov, Simon Keenlyside, Rebecca Evans, Natasha Paremski, Derek Jacobi
Opus Arte (2009), ASIN: *B002KJ7ODA*

Twin Spirits is a unique and intimate, live theatrical performance by a chamber ensemble of actors, singers and musicians, portraying the deep and ultimately tragic love between the composer Robert Schumann and his pianist wife Clara Wieck. In this intensely moving performance of words, song and music, the Schumanns' long separation, so formative an influence on their lives, is reflected in the division of the ensemble into male and female groups. Robert's letters to Clara are read by Sting and his songs sung by Simon Keenlyside, with accompaniments and instrumental music played by Iain Burnside and Sergej Krylov. Clara's letters to Robert are read by Trudie Styler and her songs sung by Rebecca Evans, with accompaniments and instrumental music played by Natalie Clein and Natasha Paremski. The narrator, Derek Jacobi, links together the letters and lyrics to complete the essential outline of the story. Perfectly paced and beautifully filmed, it's impossible not to emerge with both a true empathy for the Schumanns and a renewed or awakened interest in their music. Sting and Styler deliver strong, subtly believable performances and they are supported by beautifully executed musical interludes from a top line-up of soloists. It is indeed a unique experience, the letters of the Schumanns used as the basis for a story of their lives, dramatized here to excellent effect, and enhanced by their music.



Song of Love Starring Katherine Hepburn

Cast includes: Paul Henreid, Robert Walker
Warner Bros. (1947), ASIN: *IB0042ZEEI8*

Clara Wieck, Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. The intertwined lives of the three musical legends form *A Song of Love*, a sumptuously produced and skillfully played biopic set to the music of Schumann and Brahms. Katharine Hepburn portrays the concert pianist Clara Wieck Schumann, wife of composer Robert Schumann (Paul Henreid), in this solid historical melodrama. A devoted wife and mother, Clara gives up her own promising career to marry the brilliant but unsuccessful composer and raise their eight children. As Robert struggles to support their family, a young, brilliant student of his, Johannes Brahms (Robert Walker), becomes smitten with Clara. But as Brahms rises to glory as a composer, his teacher sinks into madness. Robert Schumann's downfall and eventual confinement to a mental institution lead to Clara's own unwavering devotion to her husband's legacy; she is determined to popularize his gifted compositions by playing them herself. Virtuoso pianist Artur Rubinstein ghosts the recorded pieces that the actors, in a deft display of acting prowess, appear to play on screen.

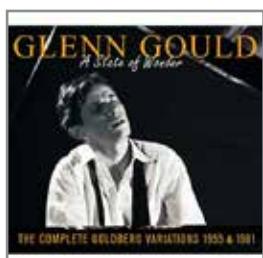
suggestions for listening

You can find most of these recordings (and others) on iTunes or Amazon.com Digital Music as well as on YouTube, where you can listen for free!



Bach: Cello Suites / Pablo Casals

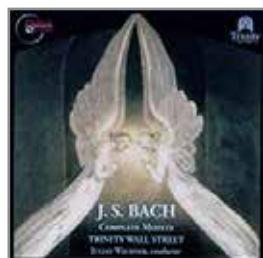
Label: Warner Classics Catalog: 85290



Bach: Goldberg Variations / Glen Gould

Recorded in 1955 and 1981

Label: Sony Classical



Bach: Complete Motets, BWV 225-230, BWV 118

Label: Musica Omnia

Ensemble: Trinity Wall Street (New York)

Conductor: Julian Wachner



Bach: St. Matthew Passion

Label: Teldec Classic Catalog #1404002

Orchestra/Ensemble: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Leipzig St. Thomas Church Choir, Tölz Boys Choir

Conductor: Riccardo Chailly



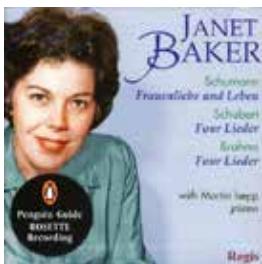
Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6

Label: Teldec Das Alte Werk Catalog #77611

Conductor: Nikolaus Harnoncourt

Orchestra/Ensemble: Vienna Concentus Musicus

suggestions for listening



Schumann: Frauenliebe und Leben and Schubert: Four Lieder and Brahms: Four Lieder

Label: Regis Catalog #1225

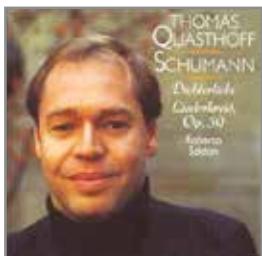
Performers: Janet Baker, Martin Isepp



Schumann: Frauenliebe und Leben

Label: Decca Catalog # 452898

Performers: Barbara Bonney and Vladimir Ashkenazy



Schumann: Dichterliebe

Label: RCA Victor Red Seal Catalog #61225

Performers: Thomas Quasthoff



Schumann: Dichterliebe

Label: Deutsche Grammophon Catalog #463505

Performers: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau



Guarneri Quartet

Mendelssohn and Schumann String Quartets

Label: RCA Catalog #94198



Melos String Quartet Stuttgart

Brahms, Schumann: The String Quartets

Label: Deutsche Grammophon Catalog #423670