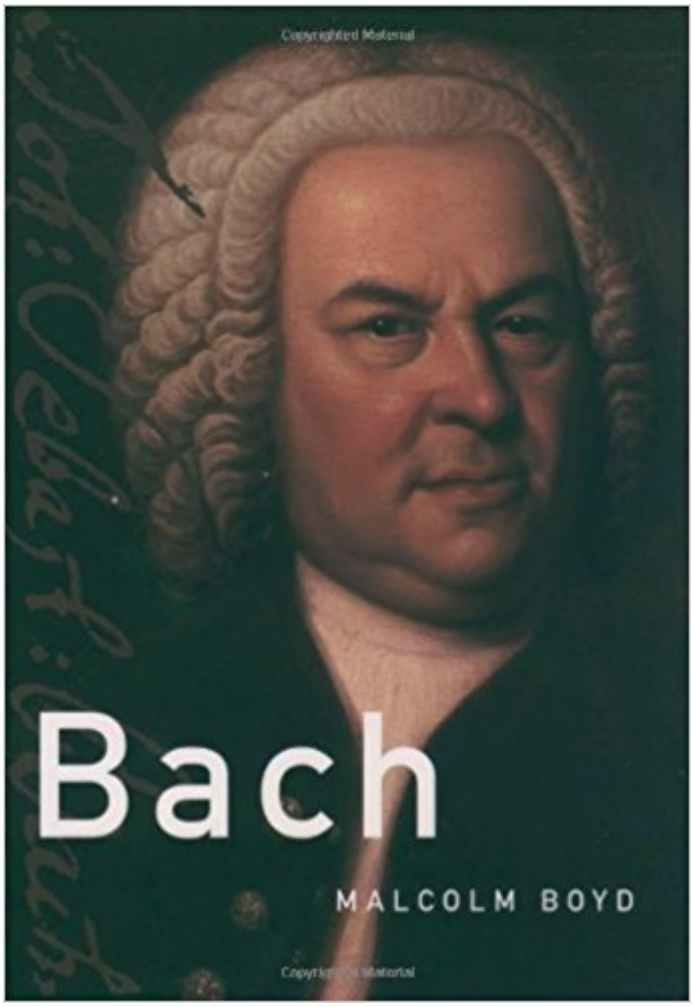
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Bach (Master Musicians Series)



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Synopsis

The year 2000 has been declared a "Bach Year," marking the 250th anniversary of the great composer’s death. Around the world, there will be major celebrations in honor of his astonishing body of work. This major biography of Bach, now completely revised and boasting 25% more material, is published to coincide with these events. In the new edition of this widely acclaimed study, biographical chapters alternate with commentary on the works, to demonstrate how the circumstances of Bach’s life helped to shape the music he wrote at various periods. We follow Bach as he travels from Arnstadt and Muhlhausen to Weimar, Cothen, and finally Leipzig, these journeys alternating with insightful discussions of the great composer’s organ and orchestral compositions. As well as presenting a rounded picture of Bach, his music, and his posthumous reputation and influence, Malcolm Boyd considers the sometimes controversial topics of "parody" and arrangement, number symbolism, and the style and meaning of Bach’s late works. Recent theories on the constitution of Bach’s performing forces at Leipzig are also present. The text and the appendixes (which include a chronology, personalia, bibliography, and a complete catalogue of Bach’s works) have been thoroughly revised to take account of the research undertaken by Bach scholars, including the gold mine of new information recently uncovered in the former USSR. An authoritative account of the life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach, this volume will be essential reading for everyone interested in the classical composers.

Book Information

File Size: 5197 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0195142225

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 3 edition (January 18, 2001)

Publication Date: April 30, 1967

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004M5I2ZE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #305,202 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Classical #130 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Classical #132 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Bach

Customer Reviews

I've only just begun reading -- at 6% complete -- and I've already found six typos. I understand that puts in a few typos deliberately, to discourage electronic theft, but if this is intentional, it's way overdone. If it's not intentional, it's sloppy. Either way, it's distracting. I wish there were a way to return e-books.

A Book not to be missed for those who are music teachers students and especially those who love music and history,

I resolve to learn to play each selection in this wonderful book, and more besides. Excellent fingering notations, clearly printed.

This book is boring, and hard to follow. Whenever i think I'm reading about Johann Sebastian Bach it's about some other person either related to Bach or someone that Bach knew. I bought this book to get information on Johann Sebastian Bach.

Bach scholarship was turned upside down in the 1950s by the acceptance of new scholarship by Alfred Durr and Georg Dadelsen which established a new chronology and authenticity for Bach's music. It took about 30 years for Bach biography to catch up and digest the implications of the new discoveries. Bach biographies published before 1960 are frequently inaccurate in many details, and this include Spitta's famous 3 volume study. Of the recent books on Bach, Professor Boyd's book is one of the very best and the place for anyone with an interest in Bach to start their exploration of his life and work.

This book provides an analyical and important summary of the greatest of all 18th century composers. Boyd succeeds in providing the life of Bach in context with the musical conditions of 18th century Germany, but adds his own perspective as seen from the end of the 20th century. I found this book most enjoyable, along the likes of other biographies of Bach, including Spitta and

Schweitzer. To be added to the Bach Plucked! web site’s recommended reading list.Michael Stitt

This is not a bad introduction to the life and music of J.S. Bach, however it is nowhere as well written or informative as Christoph Wolff’s biography. I found myself falling to sleep reading Boyd, but the Wolff kept me interested all the way. Wolff also presents the death of Bach’s parents as a much more central experience, which I found Boyd tended to place less significance on. This is not a poor book, it is just that the Wolff bio is so much better.

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