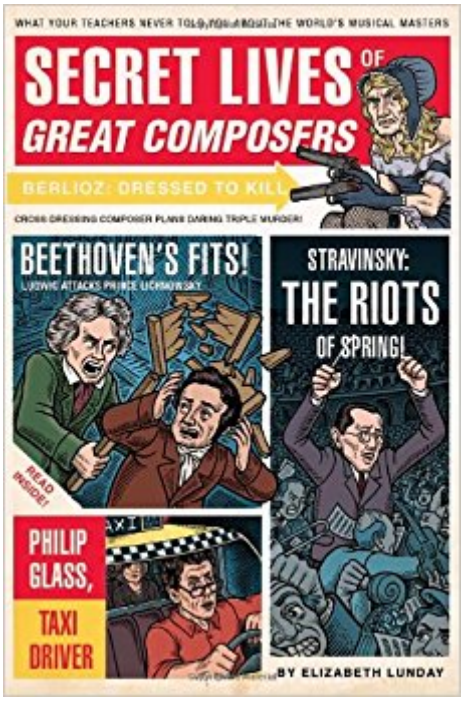
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Secret Lives Of Great Composers: What Your Teachers Never Told You About The World's Musical Masters



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Synopsis

True tales of murder, riots, heartbreak, and great music. Ã Â With outrageous anecdotes about everyone from Gioachino Rossini (draft-dodging womanizer) to Johann Sebastian Bach (jailbird) to Richard Wagner (alleged cross-dresser), Secret Lives of Great Composers recounts the seamy, steamy, and gritty history behind the great masters of international music. YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll learn that Edward Elgar dabbled with explosives; that John Cage was obsessed with fungus; that Berlioz plotted murder; and that Giacomo Puccini stole his churchÃ¢â ¬â„¢s organ pipes and sold them as scrap metal so he could buy cigarettes. This is one music history lesson youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll never forget!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Lunday is a journalist specializing in music, architecture, and culture. She writes the Ã¢â ¬Å“MasterpiecesÃ¢â ¬Â• column for mental_floss magazine and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

This is an interesting book but sometimes fiction. For instance, with Aaron Copland, just about every other source has some disagreements with the "facts" presented in this book. These are all the errors I found just on page 232.1) his sister started teaching him at 11 not 82) he worked in the Berkshires, not the Catskills (both summer camp locations frequented by Jewish families and the Catskills would have made sense for a family from Brooklyn but the Berkshires explains his later collaboration with the Boston Symphony)3) it would be nice if he was writing piano pieces at age 8

but that was 3 years before any lessons and no other sources claim this4) and a grammar error - extraoneous "and"If you are trying to make sure you present the facts, check every single bit of information.

excellent stories. It raised up my interest for those composers. It makes me realize that they are real human beings instead of some plain word on the textbook and the name on the scores.But I would always read the history of this composer from other textbooks as well to know more formal history of this composer at all aspects.I would also recommend reading it while listening to the music from each composer online. So it is a slow process. If you read the book really quick, don’t stop and reflecting it, it would just be some funny stories that can be reached everywhere and you will get bored really quick.

I was looking for some interesting stories to tell my students about various composers that wasn’t something out of a history book.This is exactly what I was looking for. The stories brought these people to life. Not only were there interesting stories (sometimes racy, but all entertaining), but interesting quotes, and I especially liked how the author listed a most famous work of each composer and where you might have heard it (whether it be a recent movie, TV show, cartoon, etc.). An enjoyable read.

Humorous, but not necessarily accurate.

Great read and very informative. I will recommend this my friends.

This is a lot better than other so-called classical music humor books.

Once I started reading this book, I couldn’t put it down. It contains all the juicy details (and then some) of some of the greatest composers of Classical music. Basically, as you read about each composer, you’d think they were immune to the kinds of things mentioned in the book - theft, illness, bizare ways of thinking, etc. I always thought my favorite composers were untouchable to such things.The down side is that not all composers were covered in this book, which is why I’d strongly encourage Elizabeth Lunday to write a SEQUAL to the first book, including composers such as:Franz SchubertCamille Saint SaensJohan Strauss Snr & JnrJohn Philip SouzaNicolo PaganiniBenjamin BrittenBela BartokKhachaturianEdvard GriegGeorge BizetPierre BoulezJacques

OffenbachNicolay Rimski-KorsakovModest MussorgskySteve ReichHenry PurcellClaudio MonteverdiStockhousenGiovanni Battista PergolesiFrancis Poulenc...and many more!!!

Artists, authors and now composers. The dryly humorous series continues, telling you things that would have music class much more interesting had the teacher only known. It, albeit unintentionally I'm sure, humanizes its subjects and blows the dust off of their histories. Wagner in pink lingerie indeed....

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