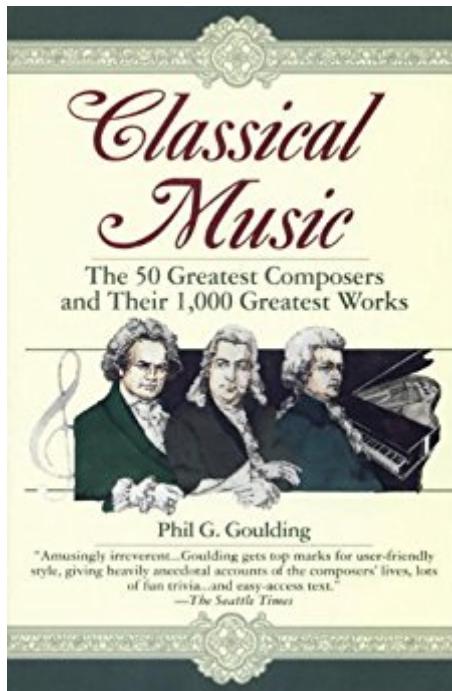


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Classical Music: The 50 Greatest Composers And Their 1,000 Greatest Works



Synopsis

MAKE A SOUND INVESTMENT IN CLASSICAL MUSICWho are the ten most important classical composers? Who in the world was Palestrina? Why did Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" cause a riot? Which five of each important composer's works should you buy? What is a concerto and how does it differ from a sonata? Maybe you don't know the answers to these questions; author Phil Goulding certainly didn't. When Goulding first tried to learn about classical music, he found himself buried in an avalanche of technical terms and complicated jargon--so he decided to write the book he couldn't find. The result is a complete classical music education in one volume. Comprehensive, discriminating, and delightfully irreverent, Classical Music provides such essential information as:*

Rankings of the top 50 composers (Bach is #1. Borodin is #50) * A detailed and anecdotal look at each composer's life and work * The five primary works of each composer and specific recommended CDs for each. * Further great works of each composer--if you really like him *

Concise explanations of musical terminology, forms, and periods * A guide to the parts and history of the symphony orchestra "This book uses every conceivable gimmick to immerse readers in the richness of classical music: lists, rankings, sidebars devoted to lively anecdotes, and catchy leads."--The Washington Post"One terrific music appreciation book...The information is surprisingly detailed but concisely presented. Goulding's writing style is breezy yet mature....[He] has raised music appreciation from a racket to a science."--The Arizona Daily StarFrom the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

This book makes an excellent addition to the library of any budding classical music aficionado. It is informative and presented in a clear format that gives the reader a foundation for musical exploration as well as logical direction. Much of the early chapters ("The Organization of Sound," "Setting the Stage") is written for the rank beginner. I found myself skimming these chapters, as will most readers who already know the differences between melody and harmony, strings and woodwinds, baroque and romantic. A beginner will find it helpful while not dry, and it's well-organized for later reference. The bulk of the book is then given to a discussion of "The 50 Greatest Composers and Their 1,000 Greatest Works." Goulding gives a nutshell biography, with some colorful sidebars, that gives a good overview of the composers' lives, times, influences, strengths, and weaknesses. After the bio is the most valuable part of the book--the greatest works of that composer. Goulding presents a "Starter Kit," a "Top Ten," and a "Master Collection" for each of the 50 composers. This allows a classical music newcomer to get the breadth of composers and the depth of a composer that appeals to them. That's what makes this book one that will be a long-time reference work rather than a one-off "beginners only" guide. Most "composer's guides" seem to favor an egalitarian, arbitrary ordering--alphabetical, chronological--rather than passing judgment about the composer's worth. (I guess it's fortunate for the music beginner that one encounters Bach and Beethoven early on in either an alphabetical or chronological ordering!) I find that Goulding's rankings give direction to exploring classical music.

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Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Trombone Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Violin & Cello Duets: Featuring music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Strauss and other composers. Easy Classical Viola & Cello Duets: Featuring music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Strauss and other composers. Easy Classical Flute Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Trumpet & Piano Duets: Featuring music of Bach, Grieg, Wagner, Strauss and other composers Easy Classical Viola Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Vivaldi and other composers. Easy Classical Violin Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Vivaldi and other composers. Great Disciples of the Buddha: Their Lives, Their Works, Their Legacy (Teachings of the Buddha) The Vintage Guide to Classical Music: An Indispensable Guide for Understanding and Enjoying Classical Music Classical Music 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Classical Music Classical Sheet Music For French Horn With French Horn & Piano Duets Book 1: Ten Easy Classical Sheet Music Pieces For Solo French Horn & French Horn/Piano Duets (Volume 1) Guitar Classics: Works by Albeniz, Bach, Dowland, Granados, Scarlatti, Sor and Other Great Composers (Dover Chamber Music Scores) The Gift of Music (Expanded and Revised, 3rd Edition): Great Composers and Their Influence 50+ Greatest Classics for Recorder: instantly recognisable tunes by the world's greatest composers arranged especially for the recorder, starting with the easiest (The Ruby Recorder)

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