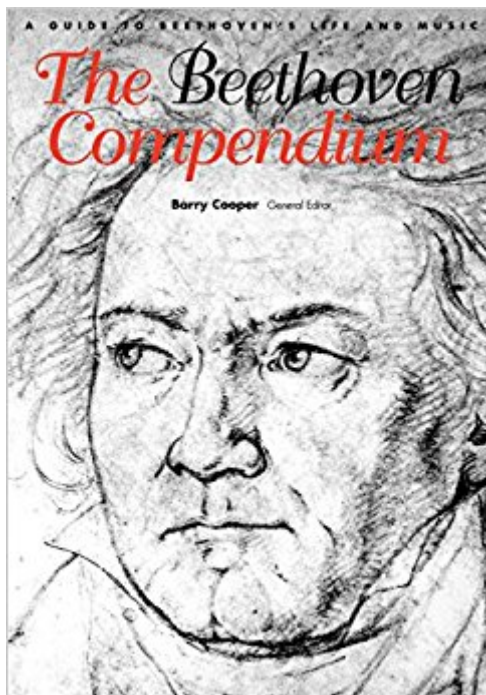


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The Beethoven Compendium



Synopsis

A reference book containing information about Beethoven's life and times. Features include a chronology of Beethoven's life and works, a list of works with commentaries, a who's who of contemporaries, historical and musical background and accounts of daily life from diaries and documents.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Thames and Hudson (June 14, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0500278717

ISBN-13: 978-0500278710

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #501,501 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in [Books > Humor &](#)

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Customer Reviews

The Beethoven Compendium, written by four leading Beethoven scholars, is the key to a complete understanding of the composer-- an invaluable guide to his character, his social life, his religious beliefs, his politics, and above all his music.

Cooper is Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary in Canada.

Undoubtedly thousands of books have been written about Beethoven, but what sets this one apart from the others is its well-organized and exhaustive structure. Perhaps the best way to highlight this for the prospective buyer is to list the actual sections contained in this book. 1. Calendar of Beethoven's life, works and related events 2. Beethoven's family tree 3. Who's who of Beethoven's contemporaries 4. Historical background 5. Musical background 6. Beethoven as an individual 7. Beethoven's beliefs and opinions. Following section 7 are several more sections dedicated solely to his music. As you can see, this book offers several aspects that many others neglect to include.

This structure also affords one the opportunity to go directly to an area of interest without having to wade through myriad pages. Also included are eight pages of paintings, sculptures and sketches of the maestro. This book is equally at home in the bathroom, on the coffee table, or in the study. It is an invaluable source of information for anyone desiring to learn more about this amazing genius.

This book offers chapter after chapter of information on every aspect of Beethoven. I find that every time I pick this book up, I can find something interesting to read about. Obviously the music as catalogued and described. Beyond that, details of the great composer's personality, writing style, health difficulties, as well as his known views on a variety of topics provide endless hours of fascinating reading. I am impressed by the thoroughness of this book. Listings of people who Beethoven knew or interacted with, his influences and those he influenced, pictures and descriptions of his handwriting and manuscripts, the historical perspective on the times he lived in, all clearly described. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about this great master, and to anyone who is interested in the life and times of one of the most influential artists to ever live. In summary I have found it accurate and complete and always interesting. It is an indispensable reference.

This book is an excellent resource for researching the life and works of Beethoven. The sections regarding compositions are broken down by ensemble and type, and provide important information such as performance dates, key signatures, time signatures, and movement headings. Almost all topics, including such things as Beethoven's handwriting, favorite literature, philosophies, thoughts on other composers, are covered. Very handy for reference, as well as a guide to starting Beethoven research. Well worth it at twice the price!

This book has the biography, the politics of the times, the pictures of, the letters of, the thoughts of others about him, deciphering of each piece of music, a list of his contemporaries, patrons, loves, friends, family tree... everything you could ever want to know about Beethoven's life and times! I love this book

Everything about Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved" (that Cooper ignored) in *The Immortal Beloved Compendium: Everything About The Only Woman Beethoven Ever Loved - And Many He Didn't*. Barry Cooper compiled a useful reference book, together with Anne-Louise Coldicott, Nicholas Marston and William Drabkin. Under "Personal Relationships", he recorded the wisdom of

the Anglo-American scholarship at the time about the "love letter of 1812 addressed to 'my Angel' and 'my Immortal Beloved'": "Her identity is open to question; it was probably ANTONIE BRENTANO (Solomon, 1977), although Josephine is a possibility (Goldschmidt, 1977)." (p. 107) "Maynard Solomon's arguments in favour of Antonie Brentano are the most plausible yet published, but even they have not dampened further speculation (the Beloved's continued immortality seems well assured). "The letter to the 'Immortal Beloved' is a remarkable document, expressing by its passionate language and confused thought Beethoven's extreme emotional state at this time." (p. 162) And Drabkin added the icing on this cake: "By far the most important contemporary biographical research *À f Â ç Ã â Ñ Ã Â* has appeared in the work of MAYNARD SOLOMON. His first major contribution was the amassing of an overwhelming body of evidence pointing to Antonie Brentano as the 'Immortal Beloved', an identification now accepted by most Beethoven scholars." (p. 312)

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