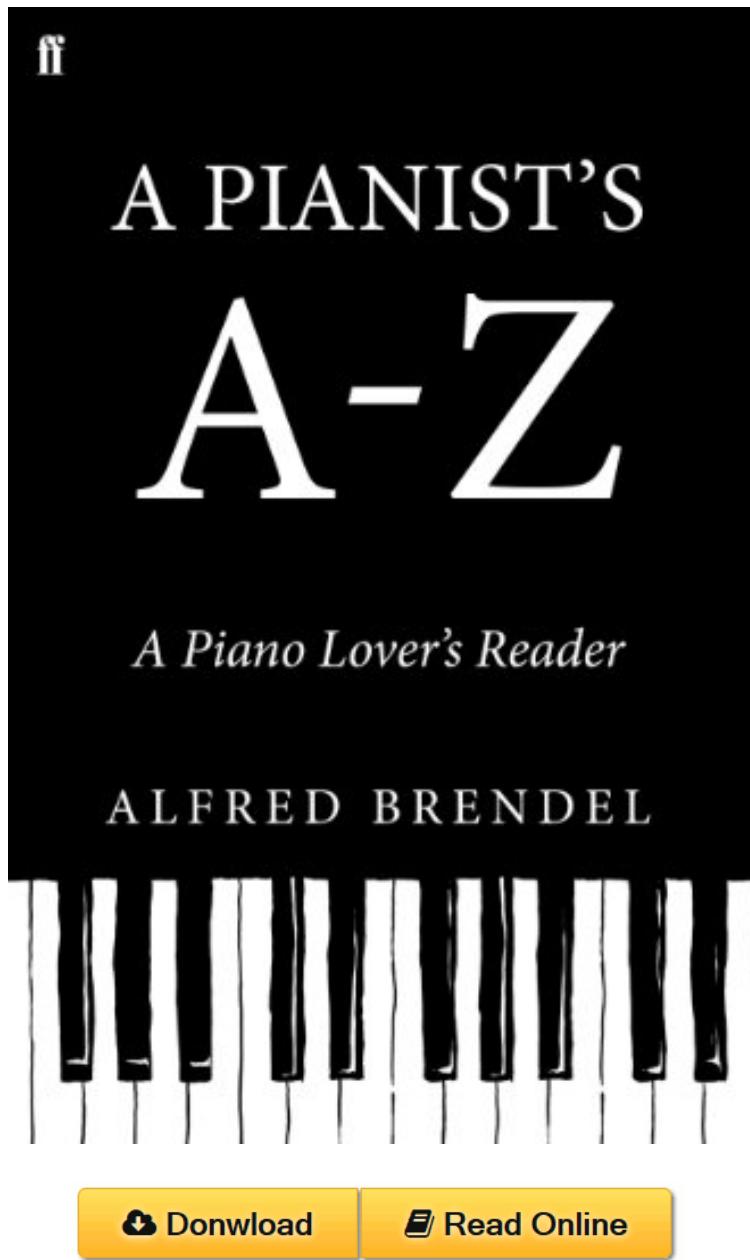


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A Pianist's Andash;Z: A piano lover's reader

Alfred Brendel
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Alfred Brendel : A Pianist's Andash;Z: A piano lover's reader before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Pianist's Andash;Z: A piano lover's reader:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Sensitivity with lettersBy LilacBrendel brings here his artistic sensitivity at the piano, his clarity and originality of expression, also to prose. He does this in a witty, intelligent, enlightening and personal book for music lovers. The book is full of insight and a delightful read; it can also be used as an introduction to a beginner's questioning given its alphabetical outlay. What is an arpeggio? Well, a harplike broken chord, where a chord's notes are played in sequence. It is "Not just a way of accommodating small hands, but a means of expression. The expressive range of arpeggios reaches from the vehement to the mysterious (e.g. the opening

of Beethoven's Sonata Op. 31 No. 2)." "It is easily forgotten that 'arpeggio' derives from arpa (harp). The pianist should envisage a lady harpist controlling the rhythm and dynamics of her arpeggios with her gracious fingertips. Arpeggios need attentive care and acute ears. Where the arpeggiando sign is not indicated as spread across both hands, we should be hearing two simultaneous harps." You see: what, as a pianist, Brendel will do to music is usually the full chord but here he lays it out in arpeggiando, one letter at a time. So, by knowing all this, down through the alphabet, explained in lofty style, sometimes whimsically, as with the z, the book cannot fail but stimulate you to listening to special pieces with a renewed and ravenous gusto. Brendel speaks with love of his piano: "The piano is an object of transformation. It permits, if the pianist so desires, the suggestion of the singing voice, the timbres of other instruments, of the orchestra. It might even conjure up the rainbow or the spheres. This propensity for metamorphosis, this alchemy, is our supreme treasure." Repeatedly unusual recommendations are made such as this one that I followed with delight: "Mozart's relatively rare works in minor keys are particularly precious: the A-Minor Rondo K. 511 and the B-Minor Adagio K. 540 are soliloquies of the most personal kind. Stupendous in their chromatic boldness are the Minuet K. 355/576b and the Gigue K. 574. Wagner admired Mozart as a great chromaticist." I found Brendel's book more interesting than Jonathan Biss Beethoven's Shadow (Kindle Single) for reasons of too much analysis in the latter. But the Brendel is perhaps a little expensive as it really is not a long text. To augment reading on the Vienna classics I recommend Charles Rosen Music and Sentiment, Hermes O Fresh Classical Music Guide/ Universe as Music, or Lawrence Kramer Why Classical Music Still Matters 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well worth a read. By Alice Faye Sproul I am neither a great musician nor a great pianist (although I do love music and the piano). I thoroughly enjoyed this book and found much to feast on. Mr. Brendel's insights are most worthwhile for anyone with an interest in piano! 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Words of Musical Wisdom from a Master - Alfred Brendel By John Gale This little inexpensive 117 page hardback is a distillation of Brendel's thoughts and experience about music, musicians including composers, and the art of piano, of which he is a legend. It's arranged alphabetically with a wide variety of topics under each letter, always insightful, often profound, and with delightful touches of humour. Under "Y" we read "YUCK!" - an exclamation of displeasure at memory lapses, blurred notes and fainting fits. It's embarrassingly familiar. I would have rated five stars but for wishing this little gem was graced with more entries.

'This book distils what, at my advanced age, I feel able to say about music, musicians, and matters of my pianistic profession.' Ever since Alfred Brendel bid farewell to the concert stage after six decades of performing, he has been passing on his insight and experience in the form of lectures, readings and master-classes. This reader for lovers of the piano distils his musical and linguistic eloquence and vast knowledge, and will prove invaluable to anyone with an interest in the technique, history and repertoire of the piano. Erudite, witty, enlightening and deeply personal, A Pianist's A to Z is the ideal book for all piano lovers, musicians and music aficionados: rarely has the instrument been described in such an entertaining and intelligent fashion.

Brendel's own love for the piano is evident in every line. His enthusiasm will send amateurs back to their instruments to try things they might never have thought of on their own. -- Ian Brunskill The Times Absorbing and often thought-provoking ... a guaranteed-to-please gift for musical friends. -- Andrew Green Classical Music A must for all pianists, lovers of the piano and indeed all music lovers ... An ideal stocking filler for the festive season - if you can wait that long. -- Peter Spaull Liverpool Post About the Author Alfred Brendel was born in 1931 in Wiesenberge, and now lives in London. He is universally acknowledged as one of the world's leading pianists, and although he has bidden farewell to the concert stage he continues to give master-classes and readings. He is also the author of several books, including Alfred Brendel on Music (Robson Books), The Veil of Order and a volume of poetry - One Finger Too Many - both published by Faber.