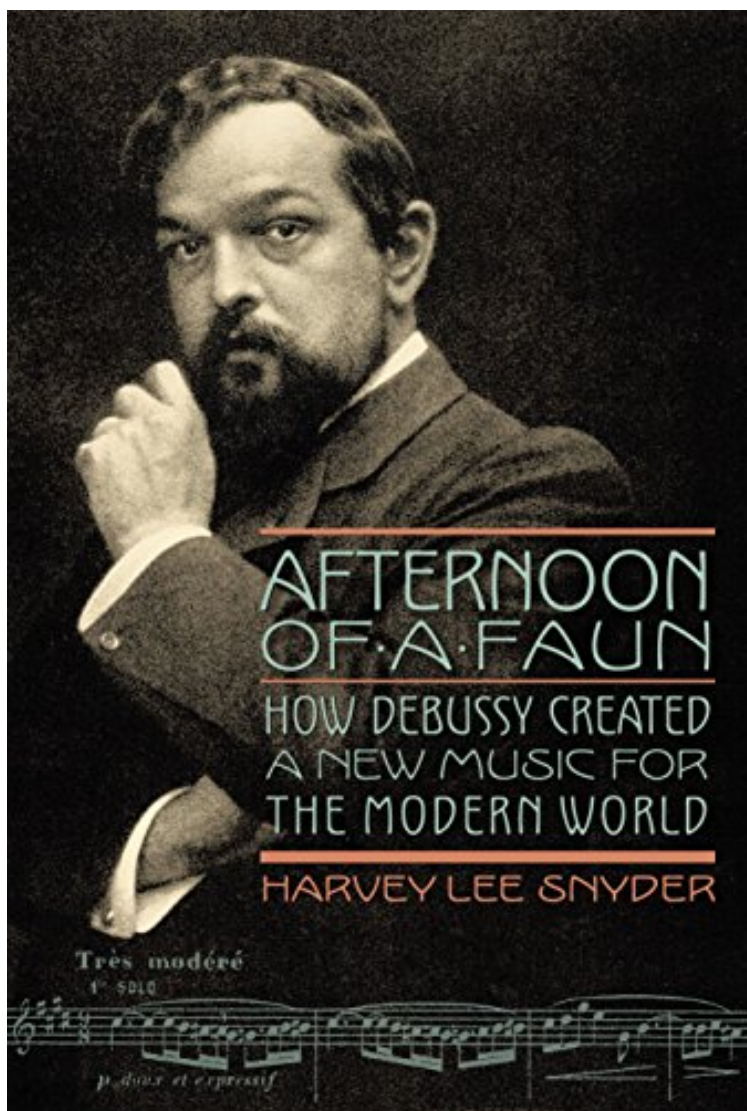


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Afternoon of a Faun: How Debussy Created a New Music for the Modern World

Harvey Lee Snyder

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Harvey Lee Snyder : Afternoon of a Faun: How Debussy Created a New Music for the Modern World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Afternoon of a Faun: How Debussy Created a New Music for the Modern World:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating DebussyBy Ray GrasseAs someone who's always felt a special attraction to Debussy's music, I was enthralled by Snyder's book, which fleshed out many details not only about the composer's seminal work "Afternoon of a Faun" (as well as his many other compositions), but Debussy's life itself. Highly recommended.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic and enjoyable readBy cg1-

The author draws on different sources, including many of Debussy's letters, to paint a detailed portrait of this famous composer. I learned a great deal about Debussy and felt like I knew him as a person after reading this book. Dates, names and places are always accompanied by reflections from the composer, or his close friends, which brought this beautiful biography to life! I enjoyed listening to recordings of the pieces described in the book, particularly some of Debussy's lesser known pieces. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it if you are interested in Debussy! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Biography By Kindle Customer This book is beautifully written, and I was especially entranced by the descriptions of the music. I could almost hear the performances. The drama of Debussy's romantic and musical life is compelling. The humor is unexpected and terrific.

(Amadeus). Claude Debussy was the father of the modern era in classical music. His innovations liberated Stravinsky, Schoenberg, and Bartok to write their iconoclastic works, and his harmonic inventions are still heard in American jazz. Though he was among the most compelling figures of the Belle Epoque, his life is little known to all but scholars; and of his considerable musical output, only *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, *La mer*, and *Clair de lune* are widely known. Harvey Lee Snyder addresses this cultural neglect by presenting the composer and his music, without jargon or biographical trivia, in a richly detailed, accurate narrative that reads like a novel. Here is the story of a poor, unschooled Parisian boy swept by odd coincidences to the Paris Conservatory at age ten. Here is a brilliant man struggling to invent a tonal language capable of expressing his unique musical vision, finding inspiration not in Bach and Beethoven but in Mallarmé's poetry and the paintings of Whistler and Turner; a man determined to end two centuries of Germanic domination of European music. Here is a reclusive, gentle man whose misguided love affairs ended in scandal and scorn. His hard work failed to end decades of poverty and debt, but when he died in 1918, he was and has remained the foremost French composer of the twentieth century.

"The music of Claude Debussy is standard orchestral repertory these days, but when he composed his now-famous works, Belle Epoque Europe hardly knew what to think. Author Harvey Lee Snyder renders the drama of Debussy's ground breaking compositions in his biography *Afternoon of a Faun*, as if he was conducting a well-prepared orchestra. By the end of the biography, readers can easily agree with what what French composer Leconte de Lisle wrote - that Debussy's music "separated the music of the 20th century from that of the 19th, in the same manner as the art of Beethoven ... separated the 19th and 18th centuries." ...Snyder's biography will connect many musical history dots for readers familiar with classical repertory." --My San Antonio "Music historians point to certain events which they claim ended one musical era and began the next. For example, it is said that the death of Johann Sebastian Bach in 1750 ended the Baroque period. As for the end of the Romantic period approximately 150 years later, it is not anyone's death that triggered it but the life of French composer Claude Debussy. This is one of the central themes of *Afternoon of a Faun*, Harvey Lee Snyder's marvelous biography of Debussy. After Debussy, according to Snyder and many others, nothing was ever the same...Snyder effectively conveys the circumstances of a man whose musical vision stretched deep into the 20th century but who could never quite overcome the political, emotional, and financial turmoil of his everyday life. In Snyder's prose, it's an irony as tragic as it is fascinating." --Quarter Notes Magazine About the Author Harvey Lee Snyder earned a BA in Music at Columbia College, New York, then worked in various capacities for the Columbia Record Club, Mercury and Philips Records, and Mills Music. For the record club he wrote an illustrated history of American popular music, and he wrote album liner notes for Columbia, Philips, Spoken Arts, and Caedmon records. More recently he was a consultant for several direct-marketing companies. In retirement he took up writing full-time and returned to his roots in music. *Afternoon of a Faun* is his first published book.