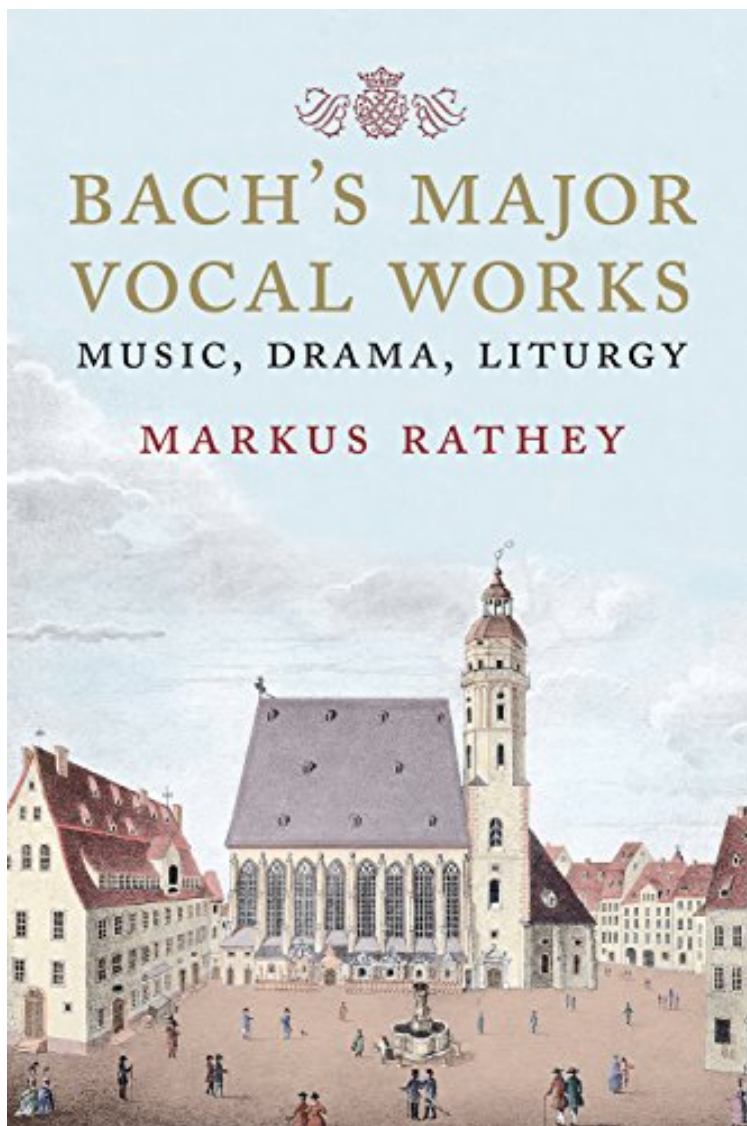


Bach's Major Vocal Works: Music, Drama, Liturgy

Markus Rathey

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Markus Rathey : Bach's Major Vocal Works: Music, Drama, Liturgy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bach's Major Vocal Works: Music, Drama, Liturgy:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly Brilliant Glimpse into the world of BachBy Doc of the BayMarkus Rathey provides readers a glimpse into the world of Bach and his major vocal works as never before. He writes with depth, focused knowledge, passion and true understanding. He is able to integrate so many facets into an incredibly meaningful and comprehensive work that all readers will enjoy! This is a book that you will read again and again and walk away with inspiration, renewed creativity and might look at the world around you from a completely renewed perspective. I recommend highly recommend this incredibly beautiful read to any and all readers.6 of 6

people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully informative book but I suggest having the music available ...By Terry KavanaghWonderfully informative book but I suggest having the music available at same time. It really enhances the experience. I am untrained musically but I have loved classical music and opera for 40 years and learned a great deal from the book. Highly recommend it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good as a first Bach volumeBy PJBPPretty well written, but two caveats: First, this is more for anyone who is not already familiar with Bach's vocal works; it is rather a primer that doesn't really add to other basic works. Second, Rathey does not differentiate enough Bach's compositional style and skill from those of his compatriots. Instead, he treats Bach as almost a generic Baroque artist who reflects the tenor and outlook of his time, ignoring the forward-looking and even revolutionary aspects of Bach's tonal, rhythmic, and instrumental genius.

Every year, Johann Sebastian Bach's major vocal works are performed to mark liturgical milestones in the Christian calendar. Written by a renowned Bach scholar, this concise and accessible book provides an introduction to the music and cultural contexts of the composer's most beloved masterpieces, including the Magnificat, Christmas Oratorio, and St. John Passion. In addition to providing historical information, each chapter highlights significant aspects—such as the theology of love—of a particular piece. This penetrating volume is the first to treat the vocal works as a whole, showing how the compositions were embedded in their original performative context within the liturgy as well as discussing Bach's musical style, from the detailed level of individual movements to the overarching aspects of each work. Published in the approach to Easter when many of these vocal works are performed, this outstanding volume will appeal to casual concertgoers and scholars alike.

“An excellent general perusal of Bach's major choral works, this book is recommended for classical music lovers, Bach fans, and those who are interested in Christian music and theology.”—Library Journal