

(Mobile book) Beethoven (Master Musicians Series)

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Barry Cooper

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Barry Cooper : Beethoven (Master Musicians Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beethoven (Master Musicians Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thank you for a truly wonderful telling of the life and struggles of this great ...By CBDThank you for a truly wonderful telling of the life and struggles of this great musical master. Since being introduced to the works of Beethoven through public radio programming at the age of five, I have felt a kindred love for Ludwig van Beethoven, the person. Listening to his music throughout my life has always given me a sense of the man openly revealing himself - heart and spirit. The more I learn about him, the more I appreciate his legacy. And

this book by Barry Cooper is a super read, a treasure source for friends of Beethoven. Respectfully sharing about experiences, characters, and events of his time, while also providing an interesting yet detailed look into the virtuosos's major, and some minor works. While devouring this entire book I was especially grateful to notice no attempts to tare down or defame the man. Well done! Reading this work was for me, like a visit with a dear friend. Thanks again.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book that is held back from greatness only by ...By novoportuThis is an excellent book that is held back from greatness only by the author's absurdly defensive advocacy for his subject. Not quite hagiography, but most certainly apologetic. My recommendation is to get this book, knowing its limitations, alongside another that is unafraid to acknowledge the composer's darker side(s)- Suchet's Beethoven: The Man Revealed, for example.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The more you know about music, the more you'll like this book.By PozdravyThis book deals with Beethoven's life and works. Cooper spends considerable time discussing what Beethoven worked on and when. He also gives. short, intriguing analyses of many works. The non musician may find these hard to understand because they are rather technical. (e.g. The second movement of the Emperor Concerto is really in C-flat major but notated in B major.) However, as a musician, I found his comments stimulating and found myself consulting the scores repeatedly while reading the book. This has made my reading very slow. I am still at the late quartets and am eager to read his analyses of them because I know them quite well. Even if you do not understand music theory, this is a valuable bio of one the great musical minds of all time.

The connections between a great artist's life and work are subtle, complex, and often highly revealing. In the case of Beethoven, however, the standard approach has been to treat his life and his art separately. Now, Barry Cooper's new volume incorporates the latest international research on many aspects of the composer's life and work and presents these in a truly integrated narrative. Cooper employs a strictly chronological approach that enables each work to be seen against the musical and biographical background from which it emerged. The result is a much closer confluence of life and work than is usually achieved, for two reasons. First, composition was Beethoven's central preoccupation for most of his life: "I live entirely in my music," he once wrote. Second, recent study of his many musical sketches has enabled a much clearer picture of his everyday compositional activity than was previously possible, leading to rich new insights into the interaction between his life and music. This volume concentrates on Beethoven's artistic achievements both by examining the origins of his works and by expert commentary on some of their most striking and original features. It also reexamines virtually all the evidence--from fictitious anecdotes right down to the translations of individual German words--to avoid recycling old errors. And it offers numerous new details derived from sketch studies and a new edition of Beethoven's correspondence. Offering a wealth of fresh conclusions and intertwining life and work in illuminating ways, Beethoven will establish itself as the reference on one of the world's greatest composers.

From BooklistHis music was a period unto itself, for Beethoven built on the music of preceding eras and created his own styles. New tonal relationships between sections of a piece, formal innovations, rhythmic exploration, and challenging complexities are the hallmarks that set him apart from his contemporaries (Haydn, Rossini, and Salieri) and far beyond his predecessors (Bach, Handel, and Mozart). He placed his divine art above all else, but he was practical, composing on commissions and for publication to support himself and, after his brother Carl's death, his nephew Karl. His humanism and the need for interaction with his peers always successfully countered his occasional coarseness and irascibility. Through extensive analysis of Beethoven's most significant works, Cooper shows how his creativity developed and how events in his life influenced his compositions. This balanced biography that integrates Beethoven's feelings and motivations with his music belongs wherever there are those who enjoy the great melodies, structures, and harmonic complexities of this unique figure in the world of classical music. Alan HirschCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "Cooper has produced a comprehensive and valuable reference source...In addition to the sizeable bibliography, a detailed list of Beethoven's compositions, a few illustrations and numerous musical examples, there is a 'calendar'...giving a year-by-year summary of Beethoven's activity against a backdrop of other events in the world of music, and there is also a very useful 'personalia' listing more than a hundred individuals of significance in Beethoven's life, with concise but pertinent background."--Richard Freed, The Washington Post"Barry Cooper has crafted a thoroughly refreshing and reliable new biography for the 21st century. He seamlessly recounts the story of Beethoven's life and music with clarity and vigour, avoiding both hero worship and hostile attempts to tumble the composer from some imaginary throne. Cautious where caution is warranted yet perfectly willing to hypothesize, Cooper sets just the right tone in reporting and reflecting on modern Beethoven scholarship."--William R. Meredith, Director, The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies"This balanced biography that integrates Beethoven's feelings and motivations with his music belongs wherever there are those who enjoy the great melodies, structures, and harmonic complexities of this unique figure in the world of classical music."--BooklistAbout the AuthorBarry Cooper is Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Manchester

and author of Beethoven and the Creative Process and Beethoven's Folksong Settings.