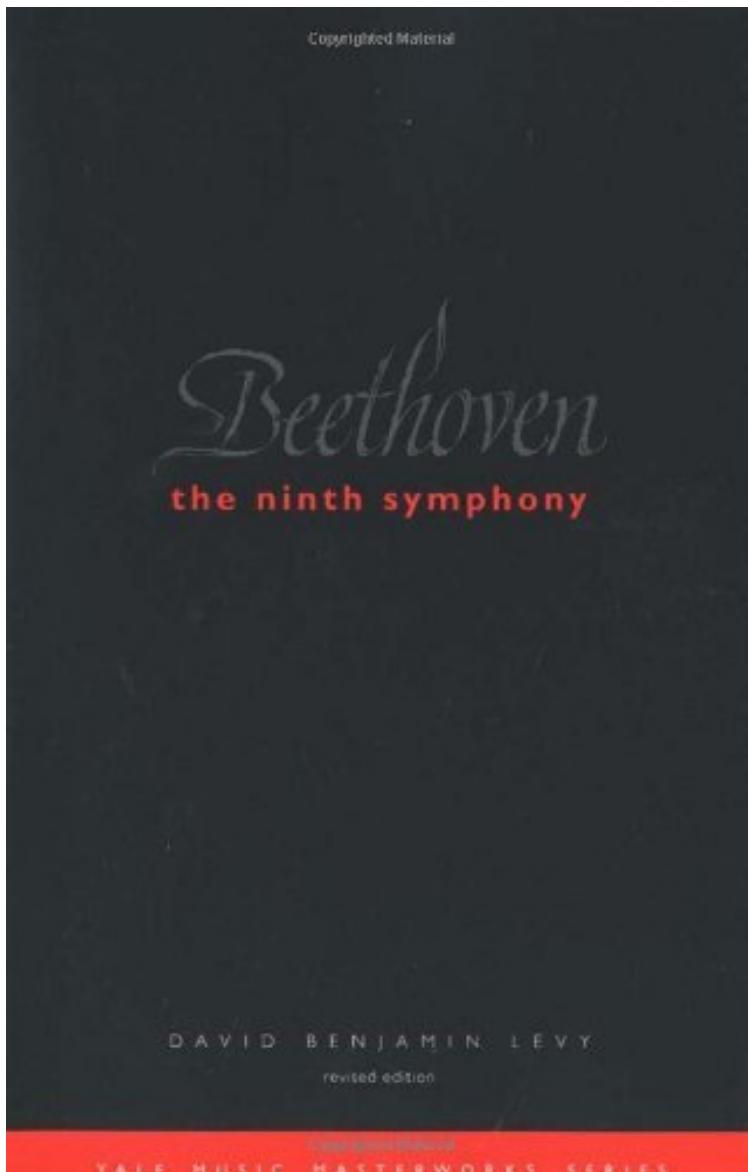


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Beethoven: The Ninth Symphony (Revised Edition) (Yale Music Masterworks)

Professor David Benjamin Levy
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Professor David Benjamin Levy : Beethoven: The Ninth Symphony (Revised Edition) (Yale Music Masterworks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beethoven: The Ninth Symphony (Revised Edition) (Yale Music Masterworks):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reference book on Beethoven 9By J. Ernest GreenWonderful book for those working on this piece. I have other books from this Yale series and they are all really

good. They remind me a bit of the single subject New Grove volumes. For a student or professional working on Beethoven 9 this is a great tool! 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. pompous sermonizingBy Col. William Russell (ret)The book starts off badly with a chapter of pompous sermonizing. Then he goes on about the use of Schiller's poem, on which he spends far too much time since it's the music that's important. The musical chapters are good altho I'd say Grove did it better. If you can read music (which I can), that would be essential in following his discussions. 3 of 18 people found the following review helpful. disappointedBy leonardoI do not like this book because it is written for those that can read music and have at least some understanding of compositional theory. Mr. Levy's dissection of the four movements are very technical, very dry, and not meant for the layman. My 2 stars then are given as a layman. The biggest problem is just over half of the books 226 pages are simply a measure by measure breakdown of each movement. To me it seems like stating the obvious, especially if one can read music. The later chapters do however provide accounts of the first performance and the symphony's legacy. If I had known of the technical aspect of the book I would have passed. I guess the insight into the composer I seek might better be found in a biography.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a masterpiece that has influenced virtually every Western composer since its premiere, has become associated with the marking of momentous public occasions. In 1989, Chinese students played its finale through loudspeakers in Tiananmen Square, and Leonard Bernstein led a performance in Berlin to celebrate the razing of the Berlin Wall. This lively and up-to-date book focuses on Beethoven's Ninth, exploring the cultural and musical meanings that surround this powerful work of genius. David B. Levy sets the scene with a brief survey of nineteenth-century Germanic culture and society, then analyzes the Ninth Symphony in detail, with special emphasis on the famous choral finale. He discusses the initial performances in 1824 under Beethoven's direction and traces the symphony's critical reception and legacy. In the final chapter of the book, Levy examines interpretations of the work by prominent conductors, including Wagner, Mahler, and Weingartner. A fully annotated discography of selected recordings completes this comprehensive volume.