

The Unknown Brahms His Life Character And Works

Brahms Johannes Brahms The Life and Times of Johannes

Brahms Brahms Brahms Brahms Brahms and His World Johannes Brahms The Biography Book Brahms's a German Requiem The Life of Johannes Brahms (Vol. 1&2) Johannes Brahms Johannes Brahms A Practical Guide for Performing, Teaching, and Singing the Brahms "Requiem" Johannes Brahms The ^A Organ Music of Johannes Brahms Brahms: A German Requiem The Changing Image of Beethoven Brahms and the German Spirit Allusion as Narrative Premise in Brahms's Instrumental Music Karl Geiringer Johannes Brahms Jim Whiting Karl Geiringer Karl Geiringer Paul Holmes Walter Frisch Jan Swafford Daniel S. Burt R. Allen Lott Florence May Jan Swafford Heather Platt Leonard Van Camp Heather Anne Platt Barbara Owen Michael Musgrave Alessandra Comini Daniel Beller-McKenna Jacquelyn E. C. Sholes

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this book is the first comprehensive collection of the letters of johannes brahms ever to appear in english over 550 are included virtually all uncut and there are over a dozen published here for the first time in any language although he corresponded throughout his life with some of the great performers composers musicologists writers scientists and artists of the day and although thousands of his letters have survived english readers have until now had scant opportunity to meet brahms in person through his words and in his own voice the letters in this volume range from 1848 to just before his death they include most of brahm s letters to robert schumann over a hundred letters to clara schumann and the complete brahms wagner correspondence they are joined by a running commentary to form an absorbing narrative documented with scholarly care provided with comprehensive notes but written for the general music lover the result is a lively biography the work is generously illustrated and contains several detailed appendices and an index

johannes brahms was born in hamburg germany to a family that lived in extreme poverty yet by the time of his death he had become one of the most financially successful classical music composers who ever lived it wasn t easy his family had to move several times while hannes as he was nicknamed was still a boy he had to go

to work when he was just 13 playing the piano in rough waterfront taverns in hamburg often he wouldn't come home until dawn brahms received his first big break when he was 20 the composer robert schumann called him a genius and a young eagle even then it still took him many years to become famous while he is most noted for his symphonies and concertos it is likely that more people know him for his cradle song better known as brahms's lullaby which millions of mothers have sung to their young children to lull them to sleep

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although trained as a virtuoso pianist german composer johannes brahms 1833 97 spent his youth playing in sailors taverns then his mentor schumann's decline into madness and an abortive love affair with schumann's wife launched brahms out on his own with this collection of letters illustrations and photographs a vivid picture emerges of one of the greatest of composers

since its first publication in 1990 brahms and his world has become a key text for listeners performers and scholars interested in the life work and times of one of the nineteenth century's most celebrated composers in this substantially revised and enlarged edition the editors remain close to the vision behind the original book while updating its contents to reflect new perspectives on brahms that have developed over the past two decades to this end the original essays by leading experts are retained and revised and supplemented by contributions from a new generation of brahms scholars together they consider such topics as brahms's relationship with clara and robert schumann his musical interactions with the new german school of wagner and liszt his influence upon arnold schoenberg and other young composers his approach to performing his own music and his productive interactions with visual artists the essays are complemented by a new selection of criticism and analyses of brahms's works published by the composer's contemporaries documenting the ways in which brahms's music was understood by nineteenth and early twentieth century audiences in europe and north america a new selection of memoirs by brahms's friends students and early admirers provides intimate glimpses into the composer's working methods and personality and a catalog of the music literature and visual arts dedicated to brahms documents the breadth of influence exerted by

the composer upon his contemporaries

a new york times notable book this brilliant and magisterial book is a very good bet to become the definitive study of johannes brahms the plain dealer judicious compassionate and full of insight into brahms s human complexity as well as his music johannes brahms is an indispensable biography proclaimed the new messiah of romanticism by robert schumann when he was only twenty johannes brahms dedicated himself to a long and extraordinarily productive career in this book jan swafford sets out to reveal the little known brahms the boy who grew up in mercantile hamburg and played piano in beer halls among prostitutes and drunken sailors the fiercely self protective man who thwarted future biographers by burning papers scores and notebooks late in his life making unprecedented use of the remaining archival material swafford offers richly expanded perspectives on brahms s youth on his difficult romantic life particularly his longstanding relationship with clara schumann and on his professional rivalry with liszt and wagner johannes brahms will no doubt stand as the definitive work on brahms one of the monumental biographies in the entire musical library london weekly standard it is a measure of the accomplishment of jan swafford s biography that brahms s sadness becomes palpable swafford manages to construct a full bodied human being the new york times book review

from marilyn to mussolini people captivate people a e s biography best selling autobiographies and biographical novels testify to the popularity of the genre but where does one begin collected here are descriptions and evaluations of over 10 000 biographical works including books of fact and fiction biographies for young readers and documentaries and movies all based on the lives of over 500 historical figures from scientists and writers to political and military leaders to artists and musicians each entry includes a brief profile autobiographical and primary sources and recommended works short reviews describe the pertinent biographical works and offer insight into the qualities and special features of each title helping readers to find the best biographical material available on hundreds of fascinating individuals

examines in detail the contexts of brahms s masterpiece and demonstrates that contrary to recent consensus it was performed and received as an inherently christian work during the composer s life

the life of johannes brahms in two volumes is a well researched biography of famous composer written by his student florence may the biographical materials have been gathered chiefly in the course of several continental journeys the author undertook with brahms the goal of the work was to present the biographical account of composer s life and to help the regular music lover to get acquainted with brahms life not getting into technical analysis of his compositions

an illuminating new biography of one of the most beloved of all composers published on the hundredth anniversary of his death brilliantly written by a finalist for the 1996 national book critics circle award johannes brahms has consistently eluded his biographers throughout his life he attempted to erase traces of himself wanting his music to be his sole legacy now in this masterful book jan swafford critically acclaimed as both biographer and composer takes a fresh look at brahms

giving us for the first time a fully realized portrait of the man who created the magnificent music brahms was a man with many friends and no intimates who experienced triumphs few artists achieve in their lifetime yet he lived with a relentless loneliness and a growing fatalism about the future of music and the world the brahms that emerges from these pages is not the bearded eminence of previous biographies but rather a fascinating assemblage of contradictions brought up in poverty he was forced to play the piano in the brothels of hamburg where he met with both mental and physical abuse at the same time he was the golden boy of his teachers who found themselves in awe of a stupendous talent a miraculous young composer and pianist poised between the emotionalism of the romantics and the rigors of the composers he worshipped bach mozart beethoven in 1853 robert schumann proclaimed the twenty year old brahms the savior of german music brahms spent the rest of his days trying to live up to that prophecy ever fearful of proving unworthy of his musical inheritance we find here more of brahms s words his daily life and joys and sorrows than in any other biography with novelistic grace swafford shows us a warm blooded but guarded genius who hid behind jokes and prickliness rudeness and intractability with his friends as well as his enemies but who was also a witty drinking companion and a consummate careerist skillfully courting the powerful this is a book rich in secondary characters as well including robert schumann declining into madness as he hailed the advent of a new genius clara schumann the towering pianist tormented personality and great love of brahms s life josef joachim the brilliant self lacerating violinist the extraordinary musical amateur elisabet von herzogenberg on whose exacting criticism brahms relied brahms s rival and shadow the malevolent genius richard wagner and eduard hanslick enemy of wagner and apostle of brahms at once the most powerful and most wrongheaded music critic of his time among the characters in the book are two great cities the stolid north german harbor town of hamburg where johannes grew up which later spurned him and glittering fickle music mad vienna where brahms the self proclaimed vagabond finally settled to find his sweetest triumphs and his most bitter failures unique to this book is the way in which musical scholarship and biography are combined in a style refreshingly free of pretentiousness jan swafford takes us deep into the music from the grandeur of the first symphony and the intricacies of the chamber work to the sorrow of the german requiem allowing us to hear these familiar works in new and often surprising ways this is a clear eyed study of a remarkable man and a vivid portrait of an era in transition ultimately johannes brahms is the story of a great backward looking artist who inspired musical revolutionaries of the following generations yet who was no less a prophet of the darkness and violence of our century a biographical masterpiece at once wholly original and definitive

first published in 2003 routledge is an imprint of taylor francis an informa company

this book is intended to help those who are contemplating performing or studying the brahms requiem it provides historical information performance considerations musical analysis and resource material for all who enjoy the musicology behind this magnificent work it is especially directed toward conductors but it is also useful for choristers and soloists as well a wonderful instructional tool

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barbara owen provides performers students and scholars of the organ with the first in depth study of the organ works of johannes brahmes contextualized against other church and concert organists repertoire of the time precisely because the collection of organ works is not extensive the pieces composed periodically throughout brahms s lifetime map his path as a composer pinpointing various stages in his artistic development the body of the manuscript is devoted to the history and analysis of brahms s individual organ works and their interpretation focusing on the importance of his predecessors and contemporaries in the composition and performance of these pieces

a detailed study examining the german requiem brahms s controversial and his largest masterpiece

in this unique study of the myth making process across two centuries comini examines the contradictory imagery of beethoven in contemporary verbal accounts and in some 200 paintings prints sculptures and monuments

beller mckenna counters music historians s reluctance to address brahms s germanness wary perhaps of fascist implications he gives an account of the intertwining of nationalism politics and religion that underlies major works and enriches both our understanding of his art and german culture

a musicologist offers a fresh look at how brahms used the inspiration of earlier composers in his own instrumental works as jacquelyn e c sholes reveals in this study an essential aspect of johannes brahms s art was the canny use of musical references to the works of others by analyzing newly identified allusions alongside previously known musical references in works such as the b major piano trio the d major serenade the first piano concerto and the fourth symphony sholes demonstrates how a historical reference in one movement can resonate meaningfully musically and dramatically with material in other movements in ways not previously recognized brahms masterfully wove such references into broad movement spanning narratives sholes argues that these narratives served as expressive outlets for his complicated attitudes toward the material to which he alludes ultimately brahms s music reveals both the inspiration and the burden that established masters such as domenico scarlatti j s bach haydn mozart schubert schumann wagner and especially beethoven represented for him as he struggled to establish his own artistic voice and place in musical history

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