

Beethoven: The Music and the Life

By Lewis Lockwood

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An authoritative work offering a fresh look at Beethoven's life, career, and milieu. "Magisterial" ?*New York Review of Books*.

This brilliant portrayal weaves Beethoven's musical and biographical stories into their historical and artistic contexts. Lewis Lockwood sketches the turbulent personal, historical, political, and cultural frameworks in which Beethoven worked and examines their effects on his music. "The result is that rarest of achievements, a profoundly humane work of scholarship that will—or at least should—appeal to specialists and generalists in equal measure" (Terry Teachout, *Commentary*). Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. "Lewis Lockwood has written a biography of Beethoven in which the hours that Beethoven spent writing music—that is, his methods of working, his interest in contemporary and past composers, the development of his musical intentions and ideals, his inner musical life, in short—have been properly integrated with the external events of his career. The book is invaluable." ?Charles Rosen "Lockwood writes with poetry and clarity—a rare combination. I especially enjoyed the connection that he makes between the works of Beethoven and the social and political context of their creation—we feel closer to Beethoven the man without losing our wonder at his genius." ?Emanuel Ax "The magnum opus of an illustrious Beethoven scholar. From now on, we will all turn to Lockwood's *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* for insight and instruction." ?Maynard Solomon "This is truly the Beethoven biography for the intelligent reader. Lewis Lockwood speaks in his preface of writing on Beethoven's works at 'a highly accessible descriptive level.' But he goes beyond that. His discussion of the music, based on a deep knowledge of its context and the composition processes behind it, explains, elucidates, and is not afraid to evaluate; while the biographical chapters, clearly and unfussily written, and taking full account of the newest thinking on Beethoven, align closely with the musical discussion. The result is a deeply perceptive book that comes as close as can be to presenting the man and the music as a unity." ?Stanley Sadie, editor, *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* "Impressive for both its scholarship and its fresh insights, this landmark work—fully accessible to the interested amateur—immediately takes its place among the essential references on this composer and his music." ?Bob Goldfarb, KUSC-FM 91.5 "Lockwood writes like an angel: lucid, enthusiastic, stirring and enlightening. Beethoven has found his ablest interpreter." ?Jonathan Keates, *The*

Spectator "There is no better survey of Beethoven's compositions for a wide audience."?Michael Kimmelman, *The New York Times Book Review* 50 illustrations

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Although he breaks no new ground, Lockwood (a Harvard professor emeritus in music and a leading Beethoven scholar) does offer an extremely cogent account of the works as they relate to the well-known three phases of Beethoven's remarkable creative life. It's appropriate that the title places the music first, because it is Lockwood's highly observant account of the composer's musical development that will strike readers most forcibly. There is nothing much new to say about the life, and here Lockwood only goes through the motions, pausing only to observe that despite all the speculation, it is doubtful that Beethoven ever enjoyed the physical love of a woman, notwithstanding his many infatuations and sometimes passionate letters. On the music, however, he has many fine insights, particularly into Beethoven's very conscious and determined development of his skills, and his often-neglected splendor as a melodist. A regular Beethoven listener could do worse than use Lockwood's accounts of the works, particularly the middle and late ones—he's inclined to give scant shrift to anything before the Opus 18 quartets-as concert or record notes, written at exactly the right pitch for knowledgeable music lovers who don't have a score in front of them. Lockwood is also thorough regarding the impact of such previous masters as Handel, Bach, Mozart and Haydn on Beethoven's art. Many illustrations not seen by PW; in an unusual extra, about 100 musical examples linked to the book are available on a dedicated Web site.

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From Library Journal

A recognized authority on Beethoven, Lockwood (music, emeritus, Harvard) concentrates primarily on his subject's music and development as a composer before dedicating separate chapters to biography and the historical, political, and cultural milieus. This particularly refreshing approach, modeled on Abraham Pasis's "Subtle Is the Lord": The Science and the Life of Albert Einstein and Nicholas Boyle's Goethe: The Poet and the Age, differs from other recent studies that focused more on Beethoven's life (e.g., Barry Cooper's Beethoven and Maynard Solomon's Beethoven). All of Lockwood's narrative, including the discussion of specific compositions, will be accessible to serious music lovers with only a modest technical background. This results partly from an interesting innovation, especially pleasing to specialists—100 additional musical examples are available on a companion web site (www.wwnorton.com/trade/lockwood), allowing the author to be far less technical in his discussion. Lockwood's study offers a new and authoritative interpretation of a prodigiously gifted and complex man and artist who saw himself as Mozart's heir. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries.

Timothy J. McGee, Univ. of Toronto

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From [Booklist](#)

Beethoven linked the Classical and Romantic periods in music. His early compositions reflected Mozart's influence and the example of the mature Haydn's work. Creativity, imagination, an acute mind, and a musical ear led Beethoven to explore new formal and harmonic structures, and his middle period includes most of his string quartets, piano sonatas, and symphonies--vehicles of his exploration. In his last period he produced his most romantic and grandest pieces. Lockwood relies upon Beethoven's sketchbooks, diaries, conversation books (used when he was very deaf), and letters to show how Beethoven developed his music. He provides background on historical and political events, including the French Revolution and rise of Napoleon, that influenced Beethoven. Along with some 50 music examples that are available on a Web site, Lockwood analyzes Beethoven's major compositions and shows how his musical thought grew. Coherent and eminently readable, this is a book that will complete anyone's understanding of one of the most innovative composers

of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, who remains influential and popular today. *Alan Hirsch*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scott Frew:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Beethoven: The Music and the Life. Try to stumble through book Beethoven: The Music and the Life as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we should make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Philip Kirkpatrick:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This Beethoven: The Music and the Life is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Leslie Bergeron:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Beethoven: The Music and the Life it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

Janice Wilham:

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