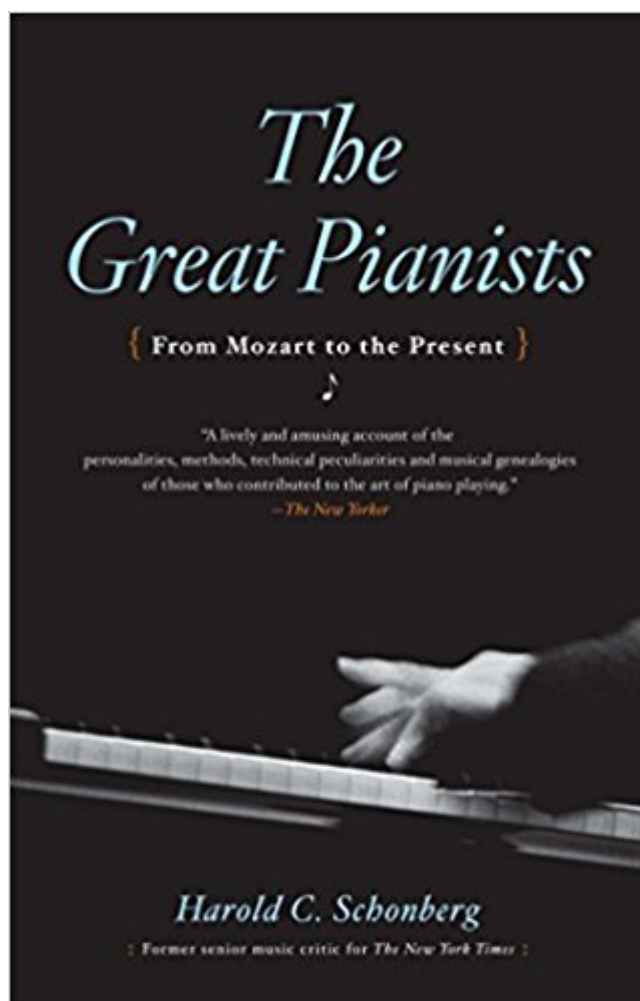


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The Great Pianists: From Mozart To The Present



Synopsis

From Mozart's fabulous legato that "flowed like oil" to Beethoven's oceanlike surge, from Clara Schumann's touch "sharp as a pencil sketch" to Rubinstein's volcanic and sensual playing, *The Great Pianists* brings to life the brilliant, stylish, and sometimes eccentric personalities, methods, and technical peculiarities of history's greatest pianists. Pulitzer Prize-winning critic and author Harold C. Schonberg presents vivid accounts of the artists' performances, styles, and even their personal lives and quirky characteristics—such as Mozart's intense competition with Clementi, Liszt's magnetic effect on women (when he played, ladies flung their jewels on stage), and Gottschalk's persistent nailbiting, which left the keys covered with blood. Including profiles of Horowitz and Van Cliburn, among others, and chapters detailing the playing and careers of such modern pianists as de Larrocha, Ashkenazy, Gilels, Gould, Brendel, Bolet, Gutierrez, and Watts, *The Great Pianists* is a comprehensive and fascinating look at legendary performers past and present.

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Customer Reviews

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Mr. Schonberg's book on "The Great Pianists" brought the history of classical pianists to life. The book covered pianists since the piano was invented— from the Bach family in the 18th century up to Paul Jacobs & David Tudor. It is an interesting read of the musical trends of these many periods. I learned that the approach to music in the Romantic period was far different from the goal of being true to the text in our time. As a pianist I have seen the names of pianists like Rafael Joseffy or Harold Bauer as editors of some of the classical sheet music I play, but I knew nothing of them & their time until reading this book. It is a very detailed history of most if not all of the great pianists.

This is a fabulous book that will be a classic for all time—a big improvement over texts on music history I read as a college student. It is inspiring and useful for pianists of all levels but also makes delightful and valuable reading even for music lovers who are not musicians themselves. It is filled with personal information about the great pianists and so entertaining that it ended up replacing some of the crime and mystery novels I was reading just for pleasure. When I finish this I will certainly also get his book on *Lives of the Great Composers*.

I have had a copy of this book since I was 13 years old. That copy was missed placed so recently I got a new and more updated copy. It is a history of the piano told from the point of view of the personalities of the pianists themselves by a Pulitzer Prize winning New York times music critic. I warmly recommend this book as an introduction to the great pianists of history.

fascinating history of their beginnings and lives.fast read

I purchased this book as a gift. I have read it, and from time to time, reference it. Beautifully written, informative. As a pianist that travels fairly extensively, I take it with me. It is enjoyable even as a re-read.

If you love classical piano music, this is the book for you....all the masters are represented here. I had never heard of Teodor Leschetizky except from my piano teacher who had studied with him....now I can appreciate the man for his influence on so many other great pianists.

I think it is a very handy book! It has been useful and I have found all my questions and information I have need at times. If not, I have to have to find other sources of information. But as I said I have found the book interesting, informative and easy to read.

So inspirational.

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