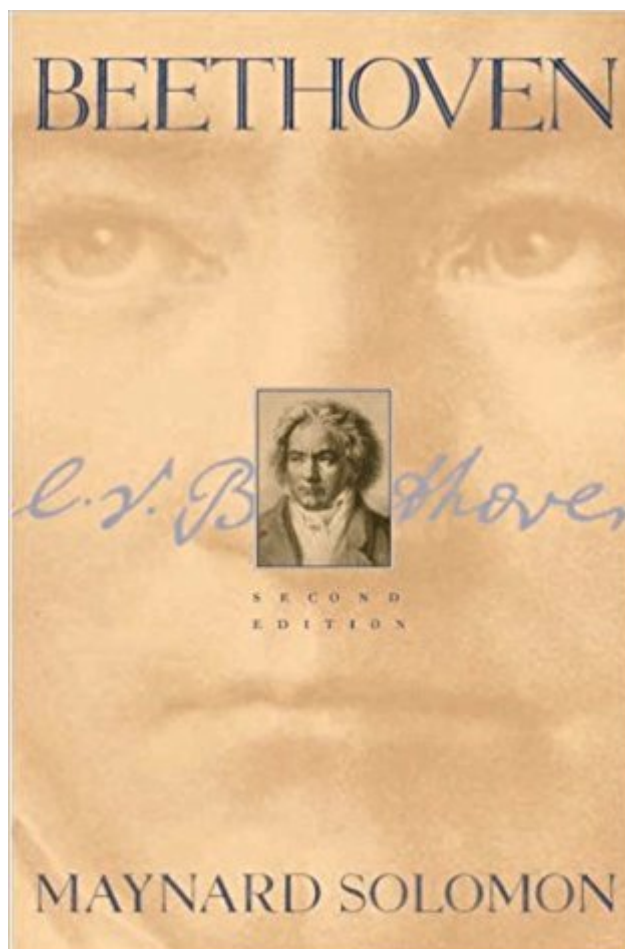


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Beethoven



Synopsis

Hailed as a masterpiece for its original interpretations of Beethoven's life and music, this edition takes into account the latest information and literature. Includes a 30-page bibliographical essay, numerous illustrations, and a full-color pictorial biography of the composer. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Maynard Solomon is a leading authority on Beethoven, winner of the Otto Kinkeldey Award for "Beethoven Essays" and the author of *Mozart: A Life*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Maynard Solomon (84) has worn several hats over his long life--producer of records, writer of books, writer of album notes, and musicologist knowledgeable in at least five languages. His interest in Marxism and his psychological interpretations of musicians are well known among music scholars. In our book his 22-chapter, 554-page Beethoven (the greatest composer ever) biography is the most scholarly and thought-provoking so far and unlikely to be matched. He divides the music of Beethoven into four periods--Bonn, Vienna, the Heroic Period, and the Final Phase; his insights into our beloved composer's music are concise and creative. In Chapter 15 he lastly solves the mystery of the Immortal Beloved: in 39 pages he shows Beethoven's beloved was Johanna Antonia Josepha (Antonie, Toni) Brentano, one of his friends' wife, the only woman of many who said yes to his amorous advances on her.

great book

This is a fine read if you're interested in delving into the history of genius. If you don't read music or have a score on hand (like me), some of the sections using words to describe the music and its history will be parts you can skim over. But that's a minor quibble. It is, also, a bit Freudian and has been questioned by subsequent authors, but that's not a major obstacle.

This incredibly well-written volume provides profuse information and reads like a novel. I could not get enough of it. Those reviewers who comment that the book is a work of psychohistory make a very valid point; yet it provides a new dimension in this composer's biography and breaks a person's otherwise reliance on Thayer and Schindler. I need see only that a work is authored by Maynard Solomon and I am sure to read it - I would enjoy listening to him as a guest on Coast-to-Coast-A.M.

A modern classic. A truly deep and satisfying read. Maybe not the least biased, but a significant addition to the understanding of this unique and complicated man.

I have found Beethoven to be one of the most talented composers to have lived. I've also found his life to be fascinating. This book is a disappointment of epic proportions. First of all, I accept that it is very hard to tell the tale of an historical figure, even more so to put the reader into the context of the relevant time and into historical perspective. It is definitely not impossible, though - consider Will and Ariel Durant's "Story of Civilization." In Beethoven, Revised Edition, I'm not sure if Maynard Solomon is intentionally setting out to bore us with the arcane knowledge he's dug up, trying (but miserably failing) to make relevance of it to Beethoven's life, or simply a pretentious academic in search of his own immortal touch on the world. I don't mean to be cynical, but had he chosen ANYONE else to write about, I would've let it go. He chose Beethoven, so he now gets my wrath. I'd recommend another book, though: Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph (by Jan Swafford).

Written in an interesting narrative, this book gives personal, musical and historical insights into Beethoven's long career. Well researched and thorough look at the life of a well known and loved composer.

It contains a good combination of life and musical milestones. It also contains a convincing case for

the identity of the "immortal beloved."

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