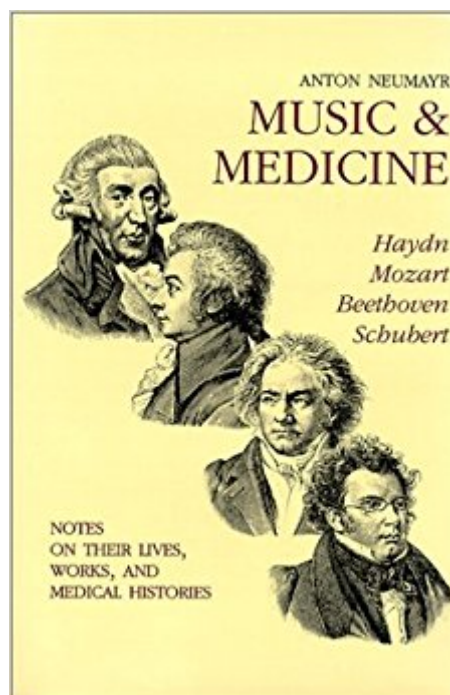




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Music & Medicine: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert- Notes On Their Lives, Works, And Medical Histories



Synopsis

Music & Medicine, a three-volume series, describes the interplay between inspiration and illness in the lives of the great composers of the 18th and 19th centuries. Volume 1 covers Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. Volume 2 includes Hummel, Weber, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms, and Bruckner. Volume 3 includes Chopin, Smetana, Tchaikovsky, and Mahler.

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Customer Reviews

"An extremely well-done translation from the original German combining excerpts from biographical writings, personal letters and diaries. Written from the perspective of today's medical knowledge, Neumayr is able to more accurately assess medical problems (with) additional emphasis placed on how the composer's health influenced his work. It is spellbinding reading." -- Gail Berenson, Journal of the American Music Teacher "It is difficult to favor any chapter as each brings a wealth of medical and musical history. The greatest value of Neumayr's book is that it involves the reader emotionally in the lives of creative human beings, who were also great composers. He accomplishes this with scholarship but especially with humanity, never succumbing to sentimentality." -- Richard J. Bing, M.D., Nature Medicine "These unique volumes, filled with stimulating information, anecdotes and sometimes far-fetched theories, will enthrall any musically oriented biomedical researcher" -- Robert M. Genta, Helicobacter

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

A treasure worth having for any lover of classical music. I have Vol. 2 on order, will arrive in a couple of days. Not only is the overall physical health, final illness analyzed and diagnosed from a wide variety of sources for each composer, but much new repeat new information is provided on the composers pertaining to their day to day lives, public and private musical activities, etc. A fascinating read and a very worthwhile addition to your library !

Anyone with an interest in classical music will find this book fascinating, especially if you've heard stories about Beethoven's deafness, and Schubert's syphilis, stories that have been repeated so often they are taken for fact. Dr. Neumayr read copious letters and notes about the 4 composers, and came to his own conclusions about their medical histories, giving us background as to what medical practices were at the time, and what would have been standard treatments and understandings of health. Even if you're horrified by what you read (Beethoven being punctured to relieve his abdominal swelling due to fluid retention) you'll come away with renewed compassion for not just the composers, but all people who lived and died in the 18-19th centuries. You'll love the music of these masters even more when you find out what their lives were really like!

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