



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*

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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:

Jodi Saldana:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* as your daily resource information.

David Soto:

Often the book *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very acceptable to you. The book *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Lisa Knight:

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David Barthel:

The book untitled *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

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