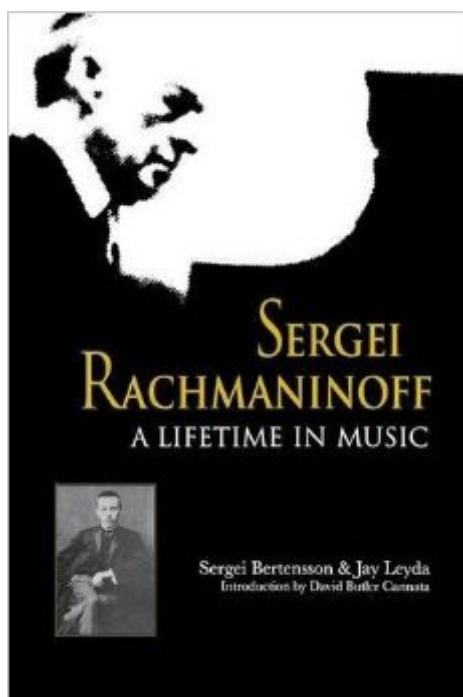


The book was found

Sergei Rachmaninoff: A Lifetime In Music (Russian Music Studies)



Synopsis

Sergei Rachmaninoff A Lifetime in Music Sergei Bertensson and Jay Leyda, with the assistance of Sophia Satina With a new introduction by David Butler Cannata An indispensable and captivating document, now back in print! Throughout his career as composer, conductor, and pianist, Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873â1943) was an intensely private individual. When Bertensson and Leydaâs 1956 biography appeared, it lifted the veil of secrecy from several areas of Rachmaninoffâs life, especially concerning the genesis of his compositions and how their critical reception affected him. The authors consulted a number of people who knew Rachmaninoff, who worked with him, and who corresponded with him. Even with the availability of such sources and full access to the Rachmaninoff Archive at the Library of Congress, Bertensson, Leyda, and were tireless in their pursuit of privately held documents, particularly correspondence. The wonderfully engaging product of their labors masterfully incorporates primary materials into the narrative. Almost half a century after it first appeared, this volume remains essential reading. Sergei Bertensson, who knew Rachmaninoff, published other works on music and film, often with a documentary emphasis. Jay Leyda wrote extensively on Russian music and film, as well as on American literature. David Butler Cannata is Professor of Music at Boyer College of Music, Temple University. Sophia Satina was Rachmaninoffâs sister-in-law and cousin. Russian Music Studies â Malcolm Hamrick Brown, founding editor

Book Information

Series: Russian Music Studies

Paperback: 520 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press (January 15, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253214211

ISBN-13: 978-0253214218

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars â See all reviews â (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #387,929 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Rachmaninoff #124 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Classical #222 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

Theory, Composition & Performance > Composition

Customer Reviews

This 1956 book is a 2001 reissue and might qualify as the seminal book to appreciate the life of Sergei Rachmaninoff. It comprises some commentary by Bertensson and Leyda (they act as interlocutors of a sort), but, more importantly, it is a series of lengthy excerpts from letters by Rachmaninoff, family, friends, music critics and newspapers; carefully arranged with commentary by time and place to give an in depth and candid overview of the life of this composer, pianist and conductor. While the authors' gentle and admiring sensitivity to the composer enhance the story, their touch is neither intrusive nor annoying. Criticism comes from various music critics identified by name, date of the performance and publication. The appendix is a complete and valued listing of Rachmaninoff's work and records at the time of publishing. A learned introduction is provided by a professor from Temple University. The role of music critic during his time had more influence than it does in today's world. In 1919, after a performance, a typically snotty Boston critic challenged Rachmaninoff whether real genius was compatible with popularity. The shy, affable Rachmaninoff responded "Yes, I believe it is possible to be very serious, to have something to say, and at the same time to be popular. I believe that. Others do not. They think - what you think." A century after his riposte, there is hardly - and hardly has been - a season for any symphony which does not include the Rhapsody, the Concertos and the Symphonies. His Second and Third Concertos have been fertile soil for movie themes since the 1920s; in "Brief Encounter," his Second Concerto is as much a star as Trevor Howard. The First Movement of the Third Concerto was snapped up by Philip Glass in his theme music for "the Hours."

This book is supposed to be a biography of Rachmaninoff written by Sergei Bertensson and Jay Leyda. In fact, it is neither. This book is actually a collection of excerpts from letters, mostly but not only Rachmaninoff's own, occasionally interspersed with authorial comments which chiefly show that the authors are very indifferent writers indeed. Many of the letters are haphazardly selected and quoted too extensively, including many insignificant details that should have been omitted. The letters are meticulously documented, but it is seldom that their content is examined critically by the authors. For example, in one early letter Rachmaninoff mentions, with great determination, that he was going to get married but we never learn anything more about that; the numerous mental states he refers to are almost always left hanging in the air. Musical or biographical analyses of Rachmaninoff's works are even rarer and, when present, painfully pedestrian; the same goes for his activities as a pianist and a composer. The ill-fated First Symphony, for instance, is subject to only a few lines of psychological nonsense about its supposedly programmatic character. Although the

book is organised in a chronological way, the continuity of the narrative (if that is the word) is often disrupted, and even the current year printed in the upper part of every page doesn't help the matter. Rachmaninoff's friends, family and ancestors are all shadowy figures that never come to life. In short, it is beyond me how other readers could find the book absorbing. For my part, it was a chore of colossal dullness. On the positive side, the book is a good starting point for those seriously interested in Rachmaninoff's life and personality.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Sergei Rachmaninoff: A Lifetime in Music (Russian Music Studies) Boxer and Brandon (russian kids books, russian english bilingual, russian for kids): russian childrens books, russian baby books (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love My Dad (Russian kids books, English Russian book): Russian childrens books, bilingual russian books, russian books for kids (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love to Share (Bilingual Russian books, Russian childrens books): russian kids books, russian books for kids, russian bilingual books (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Russian picture books: Learn Russian (Counting book 1-20): Children's English-Russian Picture book (Bilingual Edition) Russian Learning. Russian books for children (Russian Edition), Russian Bilingual I Love my Mom (Bilingual Russian English, Russian childrens books): russian kids books, bilingual russian books, ESL for kids (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love My Mom (English Russian Bilingual books, russian childrens books): russian kids books, english russian children's books (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love to Eat Fruits and Vegetables (english russian children's books, bilingual russian books): russian bilingual books, russian kids books, russian ... Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love to Share (Russian Bilingual books, Russian childrens books, Children's books in Russian, Childrens Russian books, russian kids books) (English Russian Bilingual Collection) Russian books for kids: Lilly's Surprise: Russian Picture Books, Children's English-Russian Picture book (Bilingual Edition) (Russian Language), Russian ... Picture books) (Volume 12) (Russian Edition) Russian Kids Books: I Love to Brush My Teeth (Bilingual Russian English): Russian Bilingual books, kids books in russian, russian books for kids, dual language (Russian English Bilingual Collection) Peekaboo baby: (Bilingual Edition) English Russian Picture book for children. Russian kids book. Children's book English Russian. Bilingual Russian ... English-Russian Picture books) (Volume 1) Children's books in Russian: I Love to Sleep in My Own Bed (English Russian bilingual) russian childrens books, russian kids books, bilingual kids (English Russian Bilingual Collection) Children's books in Russian: Peekaboo baby. Ñf- Ñf, »ÑÑ: Russian kids book, Children's Picture Book English-Russian (Bilingual Edition),

Russian English ... (Bilingual English-Russian Picture books 1) Russian Kids Books: I Love to Brush My Teeth (Bilingual Russian English): Russian Bilingual books, ESL for kids (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love to Keep My Room Clean (Russian English children book, Russian childrens books): bilingual children's books, russian kids books (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Russian childrens books: I Love My Mom (Bilingual Russian English books for kids, bilingual Russian books, russian kids books) (Russian English Bilingual Collection) Russian childrens books: I Love to Keep My Room Clean (Bilingual): English Russian Bilingual Book Children's Book (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Children's Russian book: My Daddy is the best!: (Bilingual Edition) English Russian Picture book for children. Russian kids book. Bedtime book for ... Picture books) (Volume 7) (Russian Edition) Children's Russian books : Lilly: Bilingual Russian picture book for children (Kids ages 3-6) bedtime reading (bilingual Russian): Dolphin kids book (Bilingual ... - Bilingual Russian books for kids 2)

[Dmca](#)