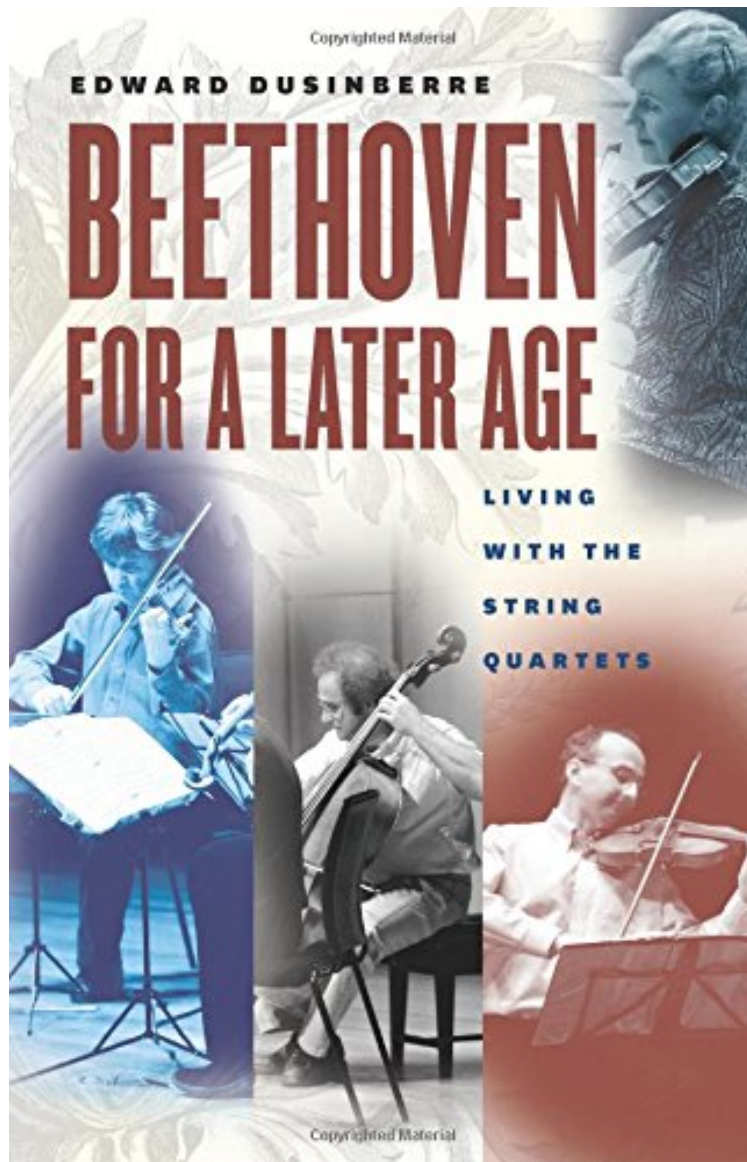


[Ebook free] Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets

Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets

Edward Dusinberre

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#275408 in Books Edward Dusinberre 2016-05-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .90 x 5.50l, .0
#File Name: 022637436X232 pagesBeethoven for a Later Age Living with the String Quartets | File size:
62.Mb

Edward Dusinberre : Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Warm and personableBy PvtgripwdIn this book Edward

Dusinberre provides tremendous insight into the mind of a musician and the life of a string quartet. In the film "A Late Quartet," Christopher Walken describes the extraordinary complexity of performing Beethoven's Opus 131 string quartet. Beethoven demanded that the entire piece - seven movements - be played without pause. Inevitably, Walken's character explains, the instruments fall out of tune, forcing each musician to adapt his/her own playing to the demands of the instruments and the playing of the other musicians. In the film, this is a powerful metaphor for life and Dusinberre does a beautiful job of making the same point through his memoir/reflection. He describes the music he plays, and the people with whom he plays it, in loving detail. He shows a remarkable awareness, often lacking in intensely creative people, of self-reflection and self-criticism. The lesson, or one of them, that he seems to have learned in his years with the Takacs Quartet is that life is a struggle between our own self-regard and our regard and affection for those closest to us - but a richly rewarding one if we approach it with the right spirit. I am not very knowledgeable about music technically. I can't read music and have a very difficult time following conversations or writing that focus on composition or technique, but I was still very much able to follow and enjoy Dusinberre's style (though doubtless I would have gotten even more out of it if knew more). This is an excellent book and I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested, as I am, in the life of the creative mind even if, and often especially because, I don't possess the same talents as the author. I would also recommend that anyone interested in this book watch "A Late Quartet" if they haven't.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Joy, both for listeners and readers
By Philip E. Bowles
An excellent and very readable description of the life of a professional musician and the dynamics of working in a quartet. Intertwined with this are prescient observations on Beethoven's life, and the structure of the late quartets. As a result of reading this book, I bought a copy of the scores, so that I can follow along as I listen. I also bought the Takacs recordings of the late quartets to compare with my Guarneri Quartet set. This book really opens your ears!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable read!
By Jane Mudgett
Very enjoyable read! The author did a wonderful job weaving his experience as a violinist with biographical information about Beethoven, history during the time of the compositions, and the author's experience as a member of a chamber quartet. It was an entertaining, quick read. I'm now returning to the Beethoven string quartets and will listen to them anew with the author's notes and interpretations in mind. Although I am not a musician, I highly recommend this book.

Beethoven's sixteen string quartets are some of the most extraordinary and challenging pieces of music ever written. Originally composed and performed between 1798 and 1826, they have inspired artists of all kinds not only musicians and have been subject to endless reinterpretation. But what is it like to personally take up the challenge of these compositions, not only as a musician, but as a member of a quartet, where each player has ideas about style and expression? To answer this question, Edward Dusinberre, first violinist of the renowned Takacs Quartet, offers a rare peek inside the workings of his ensemble, while providing an insightful history of the compositions and their performance. Founded in Hungary in 1975 and now based in Boulder, Colorado, the Takacs is one of the world's preeminent string quartets, and performances of Beethoven have been at the center of their work together for over forty years. Using the history of both the Takacs Quartet and the Beethoven quartets as a foundation, *Beethoven for a Later Age* provides a backstage look at the daily life of a quartet, showing the necessary creative tension between individual and group and how four people can at the same time forge a lasting artistic connection and enjoy making music together over decades. The key, Dusinberre reveals, to a quartet crafting its own sound is in balancing continuity with change and experimentation a theme that lies at the heart of Beethoven's remarkable compositions. In an accessible style, suitable for novices and chamber music enthusiasts alike, Dusinberre illuminates the variety and contradictions of Beethoven's quartets, which were composed against the turbulent backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars and their aftermath, and he brings the technical aspects of the music to life. *Beethoven for a Later Age* vividly shows that creative engagement with Beethoven's radical and brilliant quartets continues to be as stimulating now as it was for its first performers and audiences. Musicians and music lovers will be intrigued by Dusinberre's exploration of the close collaboration at the heart of any great performance.

A richly detailed portrayal of the intimate workings of a great string quartet, in this case the magical Takacs, as revealed to us through the recollections of its first violinist. Fascinating certainly to someone working in another artistic realm entirely.