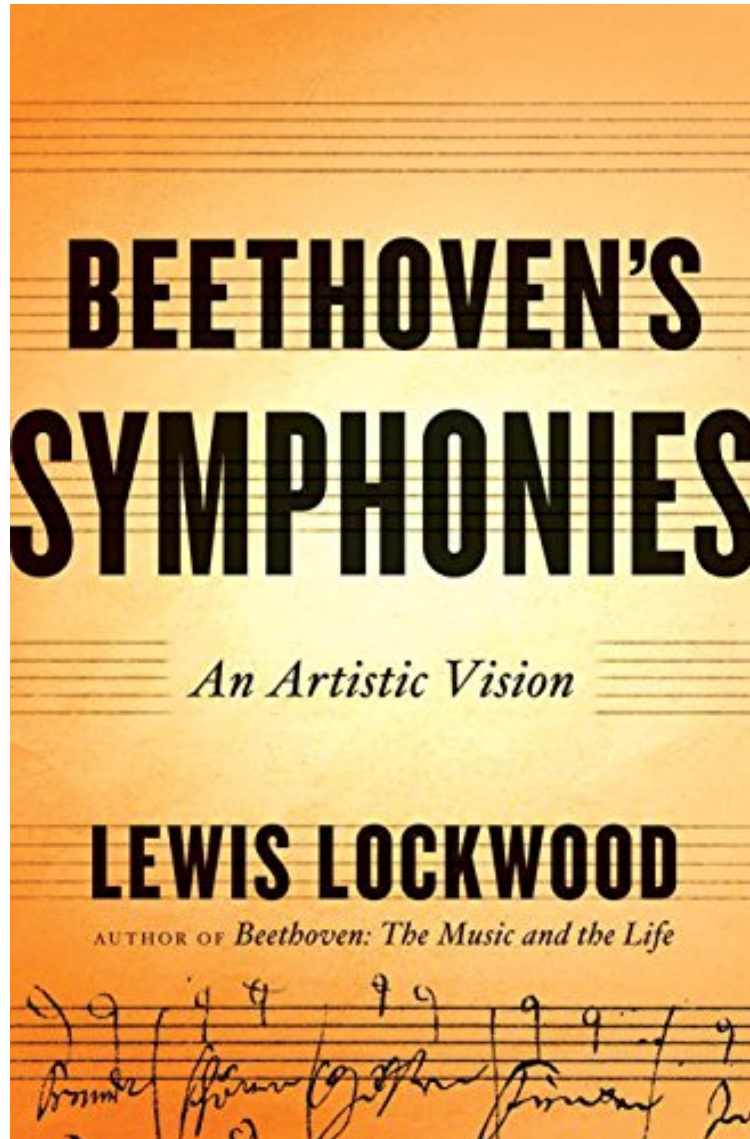


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Beethoven's Symphonies: An Artistic Vision

Lewis Lockwood

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Lewis Lockwood : Beethoven's Symphonies: An Artistic Vision before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beethoven's Symphonies: An Artistic Vision:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Best book I've read on BeethovenBy SavonarolaBrownUnlike many others who will read this book, I am not a trained musician. But music, of all genres, has continually grown in importance for me. One of my life goals is to understand as much as possible of great works of music. This book has made an important contribution. The author writes of each of the nine symphonies in a clear and informative style.

Avoiding obscure pedantry on one side and vague opinions and clichés on the other. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good companion when listening to LVB's 9 symphonies. I enjoyed the historical context the author provides--especially as it applies to Beethoven's life while composing. I only wish the musical explanations were more graspable for a layman, like myself. On the other hand, I'm sure it'll be great material for an expertly versed musician. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars. Nice book, terrible reprint paper.

An exploration of the unswerving artistic vision underlying Beethoven's symphonies, from one of the world's leading scholars of the composer's works. More than any other composer, Beethoven left to posterity a vast body of material that documents the early stages of almost everything he wrote. From this trove of sketchbooks, Lewis Lockwood draws us into the composer's mind, unveiling a creative process of astonishing scope and originality. For musicians and nonmusicians alike, Beethoven's symphonies stand at the summit of artistic achievement, loved today as they were two hundred years ago for their emotional cogency, variety, and unprecedented individuality. Beethoven labored to complete nine of them over his lifetime—a quarter of Mozart's output and a tenth of Haydn's yet no musical works are more iconic, more indelibly stamped on the memory of anyone who has heard them. They are the products of an imagination that drove the composer to build out of the highest musical traditions of the past something startlingly new. Lockwood brings to bear a long career of studying the surviving sources that yield insight into Beethoven's creative work, including concept sketches for symphonies that were never finished. From these, Lockwood offers fascinating revelations into the historical and biographical circumstances in which the symphonies were composed. In this compelling story of Beethoven's singular ambition, Lockwood introduces readers to the symphonies as individual artworks, broadly tracing their genesis against the backdrop of political upheavals, concert life, and their relationship to his major works in other genres. From the first symphonies, written during his emerging deafness, to the monumental Ninth, Lockwood brings to life Beethoven's lifelong passion to compose works of unsurpassed beauty. 10 illustrations; 10 music examples

No one brings Beethoven's music to life as vividly as Lewis Lockwood. A towering achievement. - Alan Gilbert, music director, New York Philharmonic
Lockwood has given music lovers a great gift. By looking at historical context who listened to Beethoven, what he read and how the symphonies were planned, the reader gets a unique view of the creative process of one of our greatest musical minds. - Yo-Yo Ma
This remarkable book is much more than a guide to Beethoven's symphonies. By granting us access to the composer's workshop, Lockwood reveals a faltering human being whose unflinching artistic resolution remains one of the great stories of the human spirit. - Scott Burnham, Scheide Professor of Music History, Princeton University
Lockwood elegantly imparts an enormous amount of fascinating detail, placing each symphony in the context of Beethoven's work in other genres and concert activity. What a pleasure to read! - Emanuel Ax, pianist
The preeminent Beethoven scholar traces the composer's lifelong engagement with the symphony, illuminates afresh the familiar Ninth, and reminds us why these monuments claim listeners' attention today as much as they did two hundred years ago. A masterful achievement. - R. Larry Todd, arts sciences professor, Duke University
This book contains a lifetime of love and admiration for the bedrock of classical music: Beethoven's symphonies. Lockwood's balanced approach and deep knowledge make for a majestic voyage of discovery through these familiar masterworks. - David Robertson, music director, St. Louis Symphony
About the Author
Lewis Lockwood taught at Princeton and Harvard universities, where he is Fanny Peabody Professor of Music Emeritus. His *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He resides in Brookline, Massachusetts.