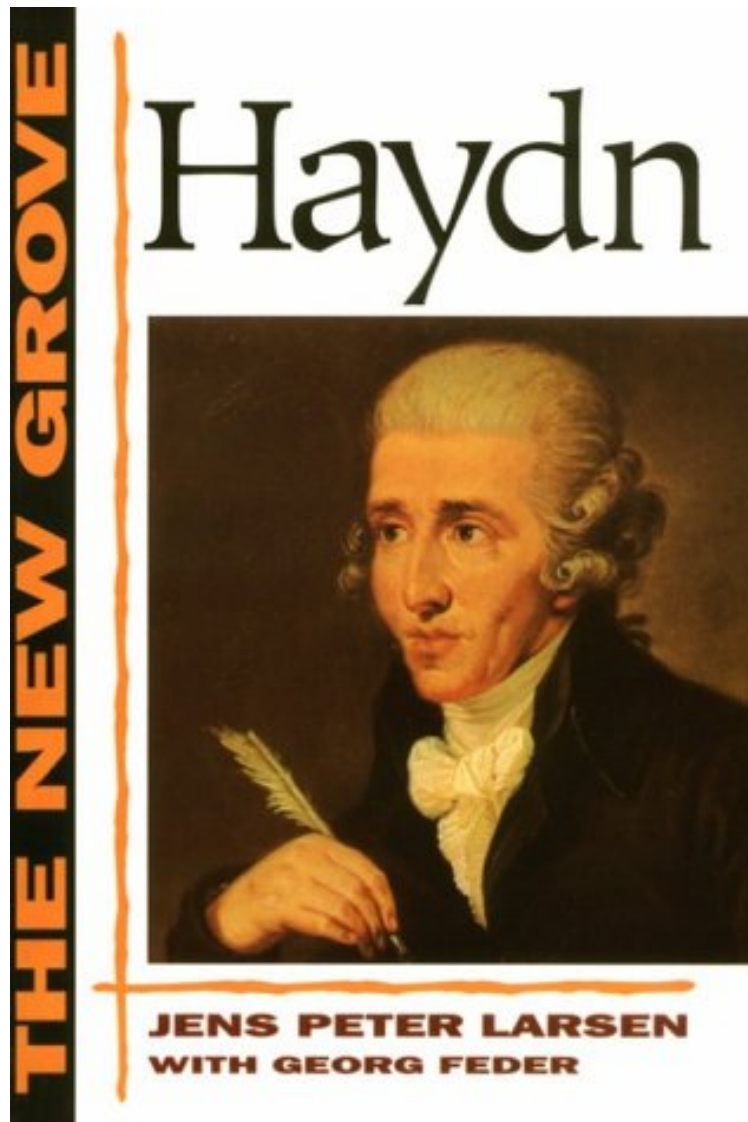


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The New Grove Haydn (New Grove Composer Biographies)

Jens Peter Larsen

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#2780641 in Books 1997-10-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .70 x 5.301, #File Name: 0393303594237 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Jens Peter Larsen : The New Grove Haydn (New Grove Composer Biographies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Grove Haydn (New Grove Composer Biographies):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Compact, Scholarly Guide to Haydn By Robin Friedman For the past several years, I have been enjoying listening to Haydn's symphonies, quartets, and oratorios and sharing my thoughts with readers here on . More recently, I have had the pleasure of hearing Jenö Jando's cycle of the Haydn piano sonatas and writing about the sonatas on this site in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Haydn's death. I

received valuable guidance in learning about a composer I love and about his piano sonatas from this short study, "The New Grove Haydn" by Jens Peter Larsen. The book is one of a series of short biographies of the great composers taken from the 1980 edition of "The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians." As is pointed out in a short Preface, the book is shaped by its initial format as part of a dictionary. It is based upon the most current, for the time, and reliable scholarship about Haydn while aiming to avoid controversy or overly technical analysis. The book is short, well-organized, clearly written, and does not require formal musical training to understand. It includes a detailed bibliography, arranged by particular subjects (such as Haydn's life, his operas, his symphonies, piano sonatas, historical reputation, what have you) together with an extensive list (90 pages) of Haydn's compositions arranged by categories. The text itself runs about 122 pages divided into seven chapters. The first five chapters are biographical and discuss what is known about Haydn's life from his early years, through his long association with the Esterhazys, to his two trips to London late in his career, and ending with his final years in Vienna. There is a short chapter on Haydn's personality, and a lengthy concluding chapter on Haydn's artistic development and accomplishment. The format allowed for good discussions of Haydn's music. The biographical sections of the book offer information of the characteristics of Haydn's music during each period of his life, while the section on the composer's artistic development tries to capture the thread of the genres in which Haydn worked over the course of his life. The book helped me see how and why Haydn changed as a composer over the course of a 40 year career. There are two broad themes that are emphasized in the book. First is Haydn's relative isolation during his many years at Esterhazy from the broader musical culture of Vienna. In a famous quotation, (p. 28) Haydn himself emphasized the importance of this isolation on his development as a composer. "I was set apart from the world, there was nobody in my vicinity to confuse and annoy me in my course, and so I had to become original." The second theme emphasized in the book is the character of Haydn's music "für Kenner und Liebhaber"-- for both connoisseurs and amateurs (pp 85 - 86). Haydn wrote music of extraordinary depth and sophistication, but he also wrote music readily accessible to a broad audience with little musical expertise. Some of his works show both characteristics. But even the popular pieces show an ability to delight within the restrictions Haydn was given. As Larsen states: "it is part of his greatness that he was able to display his extraordinary musicianship and inventiveness not only in outstanding masterworks but also in more domestic pieces like the baryton trios." (p 86). I was helped in my understanding of Haydn's piano music in particular by thinking of it in terms of "für Kenner und Liebhaber." This is an excellent book for listeners with a basic familiarity with Haydn who want to learn more about the composer and his music. Robin Friedman 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. James Webster, The New Grove Haydn By Gene Hanson This is a concise, lucid, well written account of Haydn's life and career with a balanced assessment of his works and of his character. It contains a complete list of Haydn's works and a valuable bibliography for further reading and research. It is an excellent introduction to Haydn. Those wanting to learn more about Haydn's life and works will look elsewhere but will want this book for its listing of his works and its bibliography. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Careful and thorough scholarship By A Customer This is a useful and solid book for people who want accurate facts about Haydn's life and music. The lists at the end are extremely thorough and detailed. Those who are reading for pleasure will get more enjoyment out of Rosemary Hughes's book "Haydn" (out of print, but often available used), which shows a warmer sympathy for the composer and a better choice of revealing detail.

The eagerly awaited publication of the second edition of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians will be a major event in the world of music in the year 2000. Grove is the name for music information on an international scale, instantly recognised and constantly used by music scholars and enthusiasts the world over - and the new edition will reflect some of the enormous changes in the world of music over the last twenty years. For the first time ever, four paperback companions are to be published featuring new research, writing and bibliography derived from the new edition, in advance of the publication of The New Grove II itself.

From Library Journal In the early 1980s, Grove issued a "Composer Biography" series, with material taken from the first edition of the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Likewise, these slim volumes are spin-offs of the second edition (LJ 3/15/01); consequently, the same new scholarship, fresh perspectives, and updated bibliographies that mark the NGII mark these books the first releases in the new series. For the first time, Stravinsky gets a title of his own. To some extent, the updates have been edited to appeal to a lay audience. For example, in the NGII article on Haydn, there is a section titled "Style, Aesthetics, and Compositional Method," which in the biography is reworded "Style and Method." In the NGII's coverage of Stravinsky, the dictionary section is titled "Posthumous Reputation and Legacy," but here it appears as "Then and Since." However, the texts themselves have not been dumbed down. Each book contains a works list, a bibliography, an index, and 12 pages of black-and-white illustrations (not seen); at press time, the publisher could not confirm whether the illustrations will be the same ones used in the NGII. As with the earlier editions, the work lists include page numbers where pieces are discussed in the text. Excellent for students and scholars, these manageable biographies are recommended for libraries where the earlier editions circulated well. Bonnie Jo Dopp, Univ. of Maryland Libs., College Park Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. Excellent for

students and scholars, these manageable biographies are recommended... -- Library Journal

About the Author
STANLEY SADIE has been Editor of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians since 1980. Editor of the first edition (1980), he was also editor of The Musical Times (1967-87) and a music critic for The Times (1964-81). He was President of the International Musicological Society from 1992-97. - JOHN TYRRELL is Executive Editor of The New Grove II. He worked with Stanley Sadie on both the first edition of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (1980) and The Musical Times. In 1976 he was appointed lecturer in music at the University of Nottingham, becoming Reader in Opera Studies (1989) and Professor (1995). He is well known as an expert on Czech music, in particular that of Leos Janacek. His books include A Guide to International Congress Reports in Musicology (with Rosemary Dooley, 1979), Czech Music (1988), Janacek's Operas (1992) and the catalogue Janacek's Works (co-author, 1997). He has edited and translated Janacek's letters to Kamila Stosslova (1994) and The Memoirs of Zdenka Janackova (1998), and with Sir Charles Mackerras has published authentic editions of Janacek's operas Jenufa and From the House of the Dead. - Authors - JAMES WEBSTER is Goldwin Smith Professor of Music at Cornell University. He has written on many aspects of Haydn's works as well as publishing writings on Beethoven's chamber music, Schubert, opera buffa and Brahms. His writings include Haydn's 'Farewell' Symphony and the Idea of Classical Style (1991). - GEORG FEDER was director of the Joseph-Haydn-Institute in Cologne from 1960 until his retirement in 1990 .