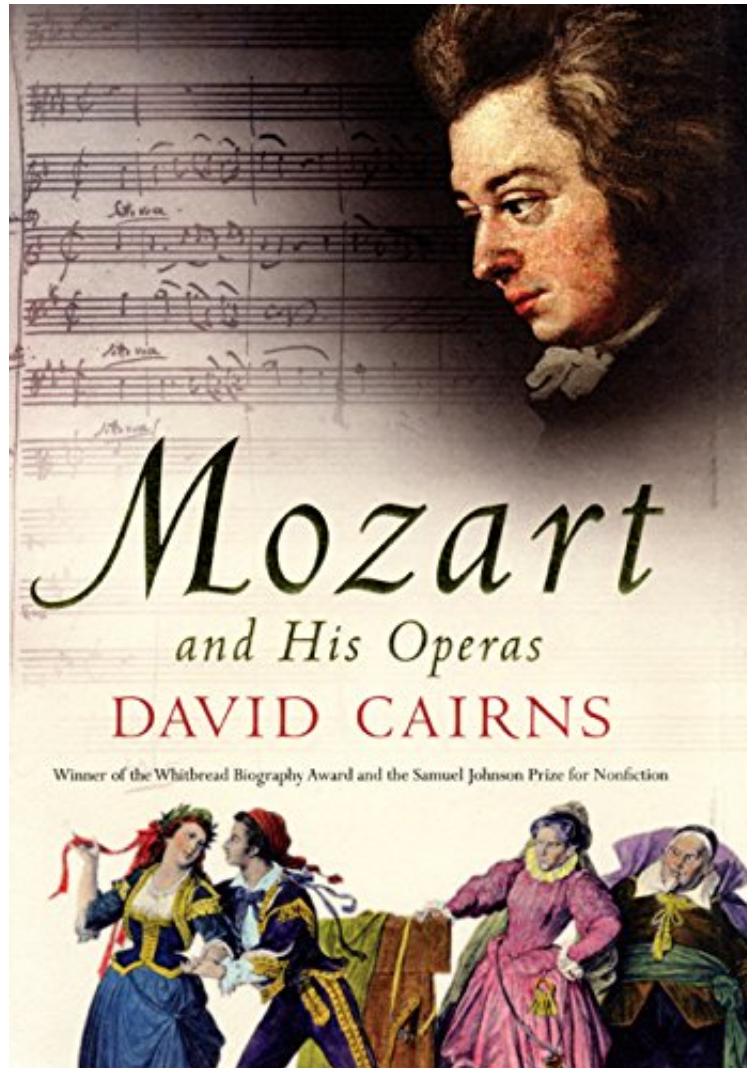


(Download pdf ebook) Mozart and His Operas

Mozart and His Operas

David Cairns, Sue Bradbury

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David Cairns, Sue Bradbury : Mozart and His Operas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mozart and His Operas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Carrol F. Coates Excellent background on Mozart's operas. It will serve as a future reference for me. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mozart Operas By ALFRED H. Harris Excellent book up to Cairns usual high standards. Not just a dry doctoral thesis. Very useful in preparing a Mozart program. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The ideal handbook to the Seven By Ralph Moore Like all successful musical guides, David Cairns' magisterial survey of Mozart's operas weaves in just enough biographical and contextual circumstance to balance the musicological elements. His tone is light, lucid and

engaging throughout; he includes enough analysis to engage the reader with some academic appreciation of musical technicalities but not so much as to alienate the musical illiterate who simply loves the operas. My only regretful observation is that his explication of the musical dynamic of key scenes requires the reader to stop and re-listen so frequently in order to appreciate the point being made. Cairns' love and reverence for the music are what emerge above all other considerations; this is no dry narrative. Another attribute of any good biography is the examination and ultimate disposal of the numerous myths and canards that are the inevitable accretions around the life of any great man; Cairns dispels the folk-tales about the pauper's grave, the forebodings of death, the inhumanly miraculous speed of composition of some works, Mozart's supposed potty-mouthed infantilism, and other such populist generalisations. Instead, he proves a wise guide through Mozart's creative development, re-evaluating and re-assessing the importance of works such as "La clemenza di Tito" which have only recently and grudgingly been accorded their place in the Pantheon. He presents a careful and psychologically credible study of the dynamic of the constantly evolving relationship between Papa Leopold and son Wolfgang and reinstates the composer as a widely and deeply read man of the Enlightenment, not some kind of Idiot Savant. Published as recently as 2006, this book will not in any case date; it is surely destined to remain the recommended handbook for anyone needing to deepen his response to these pinnacles of Western Classical music.

David Cairns winner of the Whitbread Biography Award and the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction has spent his life immersed in Mozart's music, both as a performer and as a listener. This intimate biography sheds new and important light on the composer by placing his operas in the context of his life and his complete musical output. Mozart's unusual childhood as a musical prodigy touring Europe as a performer from an early age is well known. But even more remarkable is that the genius grew up to produce works of increasing maturity and originality. Cairns unravels the many myths surrounding Mozart to reveal the opinionated, passionate, and exceptionally intelligent man behind the legend. Cairns shows that familiarity with the operas can transform our perception of Mozart's art. He demonstrates that the composer's approach to composition was that of a consummate dramatist. Using the operas as his guide, he traces the steady deepening of Mozart's musical style from his beginnings as a child prodigy, through his coming of age with, in Cairns' opinion, the most Romantic and forward-looking of all Mozart's operas, *Idomeneo*. He discusses Mozart's later genius as displayed in the three comic operas *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*, and in *The Magic Flute*, the final and greatest triumph of his career.

From the Inside Flap: Acclaim for *Berlioz: The Making of an Artist* "Berlioz stands as one of the great biographies of our day, and also one of the great feats of literary sympathy with an artistic genius, filled with a love, knowledge and understanding of its subject that flame up on every page." Max Loppert, *Financial Times* "In David Cairns, Berlioz has found a biographer who shares his sense of scale. There is not a dull or redundant page in the whole book." Noel Malcolm, *Sunday Telegraph* "David Cairns has a wonderful story to tell and he tells it superbly well . . . rich in detail and imbued with imaginative insights that stem from love. It is also written with an enviable blend of grace and energy." Peter Heyworth, *Observer* "Berlioz: Servitude and Greatness" Epic . . . will stand as a major monument of the history of classical music and will surely, on its subject, never be surpassed." Alexander Waugh, *Literary* "One of the masterpieces of modern biography . . . a magnificent piece of synthesizing scholarship, fluently readable yet maturely balanced." Rupert Christiansen, *Daily Telegraph* "How fortunate Berlioz has been in his latest, perhaps definitive biographer" George Steiner, *Observer* "A life brilliantly described as an extended adolescence of unceasing emotional turbulence and creative struggle . . . a generous view of a man who was always exceptionally generous to others." Robin Blake, *The Independent on Sunday* "It is always a pleasure to read a book by David Cairns; praise has always been lavished on his scholarship, style and breadth of reading but what catches us in the end in this wonderful new book is his love for his chosen hero and his music. We finish the book realising that Mozart touches upon all that makes us civilised and that he reminds us of both what we are and what we might be." Colin Davis