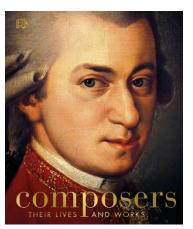


We Read: Composers - Their Lives and Works (2020, DK Press, 320 pages)

Reviewed by BJ Nicoletti

This is a beautiful music room/coffee table book to enjoy periodically throughout the new year!



If you enjoy music, history, and biographies then this very attractively illustrated, cleanly formatted and easy to read "coffee table"

like book is a trifecta of knowledge spanning centuries. Learn more: <u>Composers Their Lives</u> and Works.

Published by DK Press – known for this lovely style of book presentation - this 320-page book spans pre 1600 through the late 20th and 21st centuries. It highlights 90+composers – including women. This is one

book out of the two DK History Changers publications to date; the other is "Artists -Their Lives and Works."

Each two-to-three-page chapter on a composer is rich with key facts about the composer and information that places them within history. The pictures are plentiful and precisely purposeful.

This book is a perfect gift idea for a musical friend or family member and for yourself! It is not a book to sit down to read cover to cover but one that should be enjoyed over years at the leisurely pace of an occasional read. Each section has a large, impressive painting or photograph of the composer effectively bringing him/her to life on the page.

On the composer Telemann - "His mother disapproved of his passion for music, and confiscated his musical instruments; like Handel, who was 50 miles south in Halle, he practiced and composed in secret." (pg. 53) So, two composers who wrote works for flute that we play today, composed in secret. Imagine if that was the biggest worry we had with youth these days - "Are you composing in secret again!!??"

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— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Music can change the world." — Ludwig van Beethoven

"For me, there is something primitively soothing about this music, and it went straight to my nervous system, making me feel ten feet tall." — Eric Clapton

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart." — Pablo Casals

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