



Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters

By Johannes Brahms

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This book is the first comprehensive collection of the letters of Johannes Brahms ever to appear in English. Over 550 are included, virtually all uncut, and there are over a dozen published here for the first time in any language. Although he corresponded throughout his life with some of the great performers, composers, musicologists, writers, scientists, and artists of the day, and although thousands of his letters have survived, English readers have until now had scant opportunity to meet Brahms in person, through his words, and in his own voice.

The letters in this volume range from 1848 to just before his death. They include most of Brahms's letters to Robert Schumann, over a hundred letters to Clara Schumann, and the complete Brahms-Wagner correspondence. They are joined by a running commentary to form an absorbing narrative, documented with scholarly care, provided with comprehensive notes, but written for the general music lover--the result is a lively biography. The work is generously illustrated, and contains several detailed appendices and an index.

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Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters By Johannes Brahms **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Avins, a cellist and musicologist at Drew University, has filled a conspicuous lacuna in Brahms scholarship, as no general collection of Brahms's letters had ever before been translated into English. Avins, who completed the editing of this massive tome in time for the centennial of Brahms's death, acknowledges at the outset that the composer was a reluctant letter-writer. Among the 564 letters in this volume, one will not find passages of great literary beauty, nor are there profound exegeses on the nature of aesthetics. Letters, for Brahms, were for the most part utilitarian, and he destroyed many that he considered too personal and revealing. Nonetheless, his distinctive personality shines forth in each one?gruff and impatient (with violinist Joachim and his publisher Simrock), gracious and humble (with Clara Schumann), good-natured and jovial (again to Joachim, now in a better mood). Avins has arranged the letters into eight chronological sections, and her prefaces to each, in addition to her extensive footnotes and commentary, help to provide the needed context. In the process, certain durable legends about Brahms?the shy teen playing piano in the brothels of Hamburg, for example?are neatly debunked. This is a work that will thrill Brahms fans and provide much pleasure for those entertained by the personal correspondence of great artists. Recommended for general and academic libraries.?Larry A. Lipkis, Moravian Coll., Bethlehem, Pa.

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Review

"...this is the first comprehensive selection to appear in English....a readably translated collection spanning Brahms's entire adult life and encompassing the widest circle of his friends and acquaintances, puts Anglophone readers in closer contact with the composer, and deeply in [Avins'] debt....[a] delightful and absorbing book. It is going to become an absolutely central work of reference."--*BBC Music Magazine*

"A valuable contribution to Brahms scholarship....Remarkably direct and clear, the translations of Brahms' own words ought to lead to many new avenues of research. An excellent choice for all academic collections."--*Choice*

"Richly informative."--*The Sunday Times (London)*

"Even if Ms. Avins had merely presented these 564 letters...with only a few footnotes, she would have performed a great service....But she has done more than that. She has provided a thoroughly researched, well-thought-out and abundantly annotated continuity that places each letter in its context....This biography-cum-autobiography will give great pleasure to lay readers as well as specialists."--*The Wall Street Journal*

"There are many gems here...much to be gleaned from what Avins has selected....Those who seek to be on more intimate terms with Brahms and his circle...will find much to pore over in this collection."--*Los*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Jones:

The particular book Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Stephanie Knowles:

Precisely why? Because this Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

William Lyons:

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