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George Gershwin (Yale Broadway Masters Series)



Synopsis

In this welcome addition to the immensely popular Yale Broadway Masters series, Larry Starr focuses fresh attention on George Gershwin's Broadway contributions and examines their centrality to the composer's entire career. Starr presents Gershwin as a composer with a unified musical vision—a vision developed on Broadway and used as a source of strength in his well-known concert music. In turn, Gershwin's concert-hall experience enriched and strengthened his musicals, leading eventually to his great "Broadway opera," *Porgy and Bess*. Through the prism of three major shows—*Lady Be Good* (1924), *Of Thee I Sing* (1931), and *Porgy and Bess* (1935)—Starr highlights Gershwin's distinctive contributions to the evolution of the Broadway musical. In addition, the author considers Gershwin's musical language, his compositions for the concert hall, and his movie scores for Hollywood in the light of his Broadway experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An admirable effort to understand the key shows in Gershwin's career and how the productions shaped him as a composer."--Eric Felten, *The Wall Street Journal* (Eric Felten The Wall Street Journal) "A probing, original study." Seattle Times (Seattle Times) Selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2011 in the Music category. (Choice Outstanding Academic Title Choice 2012-03-12)

This fresh look at three of George Gershwin's musicals (Lady Be Good, Of Thee I Sing, and Porgy and Bess) shows how his Broadway experience influenced all of his musical output.
--Este texto se refiere a la edición en Paperback.

A well written book about the need for more attention to the most famous theater works of George and Ira Gershwin. Including Porgy and Bess, the author discusses the impact of the musicals and songs that have stood the test of time. Some analytical discussions of the songs give insight to the Gershwin style and sound. Some very interesting photographs. Another essential in the study of the composer, his life and works.

The musical repertoire created by the Gershwin brothers has always mesmerized me with its unique blend of rhythm, melody, and lyrics. From this book I have learned a great deal of interesting detail about its composition, but I am still of the mind that their music is not wholly analyzable due to its intangible magic.

Larry Starr does an outstanding job with his selection and performance of George Gershwin's music. With that said, it would be more of a challenge not to do well with such fine music. But Starr's talent shines through.

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