



Mozart: A Life

By Johnson, Paul.

Viking. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Franz Liszt once said that W.A. Mozart composed more bars than a trained copyist could write in a lifetime. Mozart's gift with orchestral instruments was also remarkable, as he mastered all of them (except the harp); no sooner had the clarinet been invented, for example, than Mozart began playing and composing for it. Also the biographer of Napoleon, Churchill, Jesus, and Darwin, Paul Johnson here offers a concise, illuminating portrait of Mozart that focuses on the music, but also challenges myths about the composer's health, wealth, religion, and relationships. "Popular historian Johnson lauds everyone's favorite composer so as to pique the interest of every reader of this profile. He seems to have two primary objectives: to explain why Mozart's music is so good and to uproot the sentimental legends that have grown like so much honeysuckle (a weed, after all) around Mozart's life. While proceeding overall in good biographical chronology, Johnson prosecutes his first objective by, for instance, discussing how Mozart's writing for particular instruments from piano to viola to the then-new clarinet to trombone to tympani reflects mastery of the qualities and capabilities of each (the chapter occupied with this argument is reason...



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