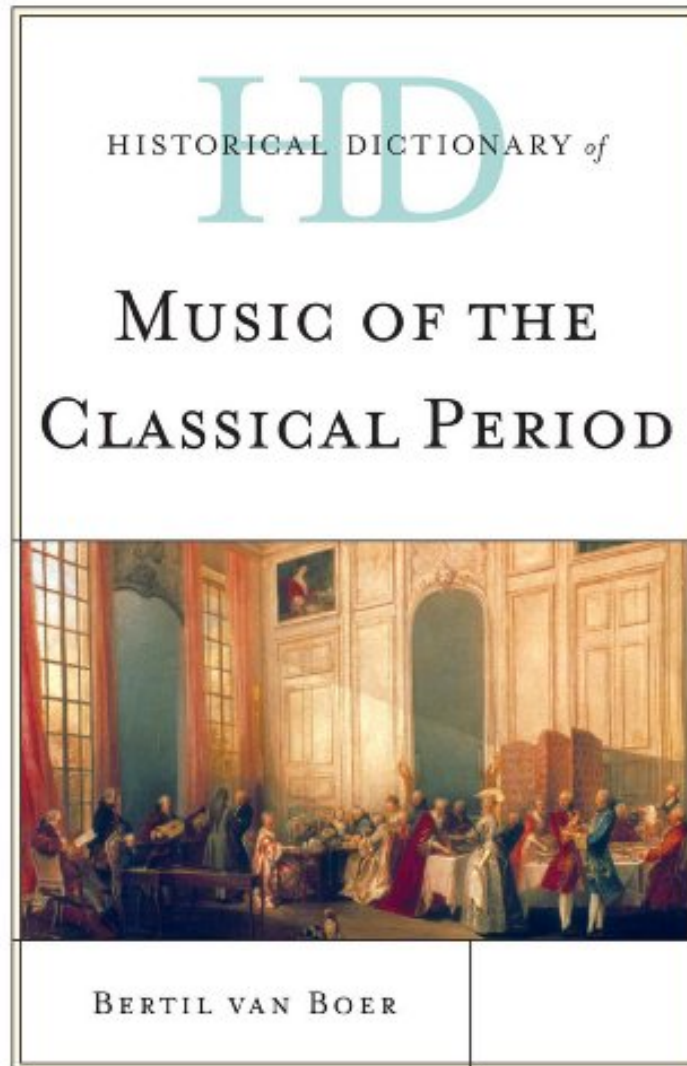


(Free) Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts)

Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts)

Bertil van Boer

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Bertil van Boer : Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised

Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts):

When we speak of classical music it often refers rather loosely to serious art music but at the core is really the music of the classical period running from about 1730 to 1800, give or take. This was truly one of the most glorious periods for both composition and performance and it is this classical music which is still at the core of today's repertoire. Obvious names connected with this period are Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, but there were many more still reasonably well known like Gluck and C.P.E. Bach, and dozens more who are regrettably little known today. This Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period includes not only these composers, but also eminent conductors and performers, patrons, and publishers. There are also dictionary entries on major centers of music-making, typical instruments, important technical terms, and emerging musical forms, including the symphony and opera. Indeed, with a 1,000 cross-referenced entries, there is information on most matters of interest. This is prefaced by an extensive chronology, tracing the course of this period from year to year, and an introduction taking a careful look at the period as a whole. Finally, there is a substantial bibliography. Surely, this is a book which will appeal not only to students and researchers but all music-lovers.

Van Boer (music history, Western Washington Univ.) defines music's Classical period as covering composers active between 1730 and 1800 (a standard and useful, if not always agreed-upon, range) whose work must conform to either a developmental or conventional stage of some style we can call Classical. He provides more than 1000 cross-referenced entries on Classical composers (primarily), major performers of the time, prominent librettists, influential patrons, important public concerts, major orchestras, styles and genres, and occasional peculiarities, e.g., unusual musical instruments. Also included is a chronology of key musical and historical events. Readers may think of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven when they think of this period, but here they will discover Lodewijk van Beethoven, a Flemish-German singer and Kappelmeister who was idolized by his more famous grandson Ludwig; Italian composer Giuseppe Gazzaniga; Dutch-American composer, violinist, and music publisher Peter Albrecht von Hagen, and so many more.

VERDICT While most personal, public, school, and academic music libraries own an edition of the Oxford Companion to Music, a spot-check of the present volume showed that of ten composers randomly chosen, only three were found in the Oxford Companion; and while musicians, students, and scholars may still go on to look up more comprehensive information on these musicians in the New Grove Dictionary of Music, or in the Grove Online database, this broadly researched, carefully edited, single-volume work is invaluable for ready reference as well as fascinating for browsing. (Library Journal) This work offers more than 1,000 brief entries for composers, performers, and terms related to music composed between approximately 1730 and 1800. Defining this period in terms of time frame and musical style is difficult at best, but Van Boer is convincing in his arguments for his chosen chronology. This is intended as a quick reference tool, and many entries are unique to this volume.... A time line and an excellent essay on the classical-music period are also included. (Booklist) This dictionary is an appropriate addition to both public and academic music reference collections as an introduction to the composers as well as a quick reference guide. (American Reference Books Annual)

About the Author Bertil van Boer is professor of Musicology-Theory at Western Washington University. Trained as a performer, his focus of research is on the music of the European periphery during the 18th century, with special emphasis on Scandinavia. He has written substantially on Classical music, this partly in the form of articles in learned journals and reference works, and has also edited music for performance for Naxos Records. He was one of the founding members and past president of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music.