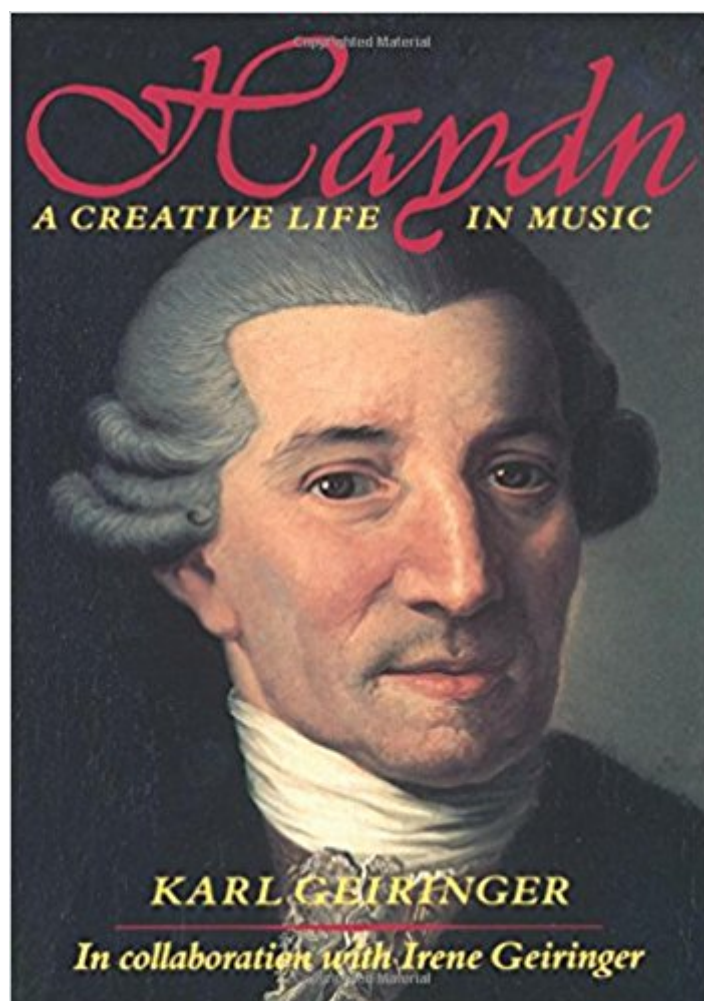


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# Haydn: A Creative Life In Music (Third Revised And Expanded Edition)



## Synopsis

This definitive study of the life and works of Joseph Haydn represents half a century of research. As a curator of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna, Dr. Geiringer was in charge of one of the world's leading Haydn collections. His scholarly investigations took him to various monasteries, to libraries in Eisenstadt, Prague, Berlin, Paris, London, and Washington, D.C., and, as a guest of the Hungarian government, to the previously almost inaccessible archives of the Princes of Esterhazy in Budapest. In the past decade, Haydn studies have progressed enormously. A thematic catalog is now available, and a substantial part of Haydn's vast creative output is accessible in critically revised editions. The new edition of *Haydn: A Creative Life in Music* has been substantially rewritten to incorporate the results of recent research and to remove the tarnish that had assimilated on the picture of Haydn in the earlier years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Karl Geiringer (1899 - 1989) was Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of many books, including *Brahms: His Life and Work*, *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Culmination of an Era*, and *The Bach Family: Seven Generations of Creative Genius*.  
Irene Geiringer (1899 - 1983) received her Ph.D. from the University of Vienna, where she studied philosophy and German literature. Mrs. Geiringer assisted her husband in his research and collaborated on all of his books, concentrating in particular on the biographical sections.

Awesome stuff! I like the bio more than the analysis which is the last half of the book, but it might have made more sense to listen to the musical examples. It's a good "starter bio" for someone who doesn't know much about Haydn's life, or just wants affirmation. Haydn died rich and beloved, unlike many composers; given his humble beginnings he was a very lucky man, and we are all the better for it over 200 years later.

A really good book on Haydn.

This book is written in an engaging style, which made learning more about Haydn very enjoyable.

Quick shipment. Great book.

Geiringer's epic on the life and music of Haydn is a wonderful resource. Well-researched, thoroughly written and entertaining, Geiringer provides insight into the life and works of Haydn that are not found in other biographies. Combining music with life, Geiringer's work is one of the best out there.

Very good

A great biography of a great musical genius. I had heard some things about Haydn but this goes into a lot more interesting detail.

Karl Geiringer was a wonderful musicologist from Austria. He lived a long life (1899-1989) and wrote many wonderful papers and books. This book on Haydn is typical of his style (his wife, Irene, gets a collaborative credit, and that is just super, since she has helped him in all his books). The book is divided in two parts: the first being a biographical narrative and the second being a biography

through his musical works. The first part is organized chronologically with the chapters focused on key events and periods in Haydn's life. The second part is organized by compositional style and maturity. Geiringer divides Haydn's compositional life into five periods: youth, transition, romantic crisis, maturity, and consummate mastery. The author makes a great case for this division. Each of these chapters takes us through the various types of compositions Haydn wrote in these periods such as piano sonatas, symphonies, string quartets, masses, and so forth. Mozart's musical genius was fostered by his father, Leopold, who was a famous violinist. Beethoven's father and grandfather were musicians, and J.S. Bach's ancestors and progeny were musicians for generations and produced more than a few of great quality. Franz Joseph Haydn's (1732 - 1809) father was a wheelwright and his beginnings were so modest that when Beethoven was shown a picture of Haydn's birthplace he said, "Strange that so great a man should have been born in so poor a home." While Haydn's musical ability was recognized early and he was given good musical training, he was not a prodigy like Mozart nor did he achieve greatness early. Most of Haydn's most important study was done on his own and at great personal effort. It wasn't until he earned the chief musical post with the royal Hungarian family of Esterházy that his genius matured. Haydn said, "My prince was always satisfied with my works. Not only did I have the encouragement of constant approval, but as conductor of the orchestra I could make experiments ... and be as bold as I pleased. I was cut off from the world; there was no one to confuse or torment me, and I was forced to become original." Haydn wrote a vast number of musical works in all the important forms and styles of his day. He set the example for younger composers such as Mozart and Beethoven who admired him enough to imitate him. He and Mozart were great friends whose admiration was mutual and profound. Who else in the entire earth could understand the other's work as well as they? This year I have been fortunate to sing Haydn's "Harmoniemesse" ("Wind Band Mass"). It is one of the great treasures of the composer's vast output. He wrote 14 masses that we know of, but one is lost. This work being the last of them and the very last major work Haydn ever wrote. As Karl Geiringer noted in his biography of the composer, "... it represents a kind of farewell not only to the Mass form but to music itself. Motives and moods from earlier Masses reoccur, and Haydn displays once more his magical ability to use all elements of the contrapuntal style." This biography will help you not only appreciate Haydn as a person and give you a greater insight into his music, it will help you realize what former generations knew better than us, that Haydn is in the very first rank of musical genius and that his music is full of revelations and delights.

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Haydn: A Creative Life in Music (Third Revised and Expanded Edition) Haydn: Piano Sonata No. 3

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