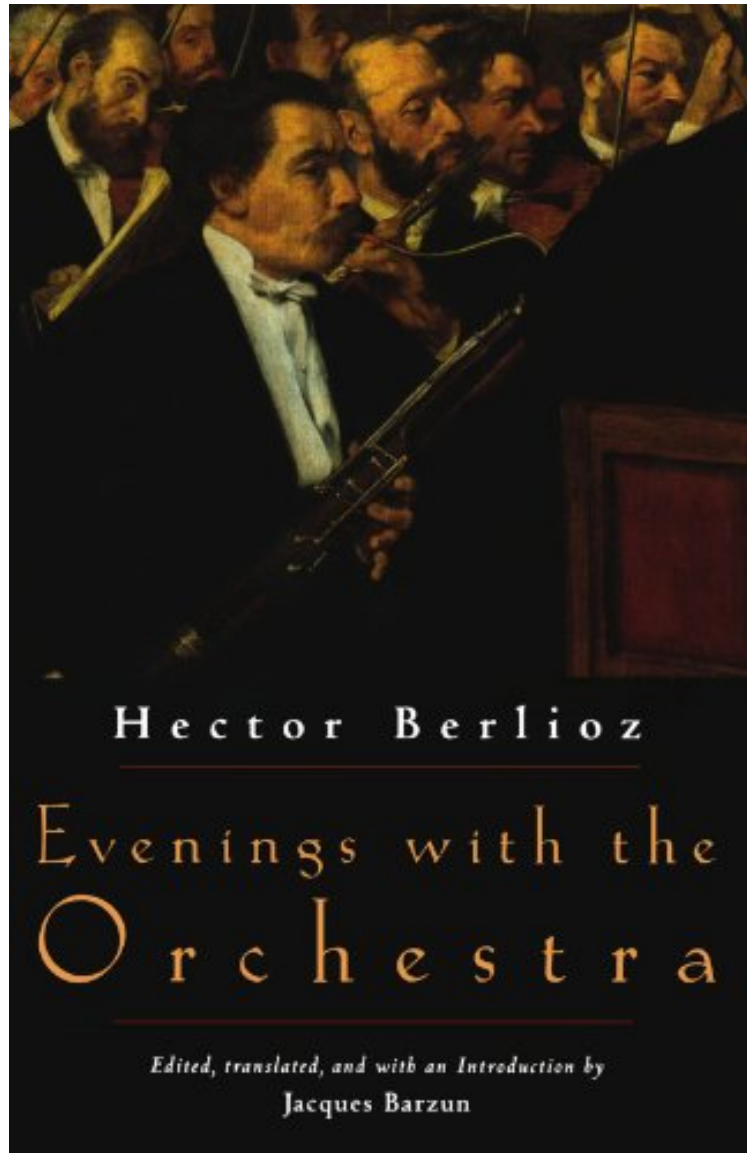


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Evenings with the Orchestra

Hector Berlioz

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Hector Berlioz : Evenings with the Orchestra before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Evenings with the Orchestra:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This is easily one of the best and funniest books I've ever ...By D. GuentherThis is easily one of the best and funniest books I've ever read...I was not expecting it to be this good by any means. Berlioz must have been absolutely hilarious to be around, his wit and sarcasm are unrivaled. I found myself retelling the stories of each evening to my friends and coworkers each day after, who always enjoyed them and

couldn't believe such humor came from a mid-1800's book. This would be a fantastic Wes Anderson film as well. I will definitely be reading more Berlioz after getting so much enjoyment from *Evenings With The Orchestra*. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is hilarious fun for classical music nerds! By soulanchor Our son first introduced this book to us when he began taking his musical training seriously in high school. He loved the subversive humor! When he moved on to his fine college's music conservatory, and gained more insight into the works and personalities of the classical music world, Berlioz's tales grew all the more hilarious! The disdain his orchestra characters have for the conductors and vocalists of the various operas being performed, and the lack of concentration given to their craft while they instead regale each other with stories, is such a riot! And Berlioz's critique of the political maneuvering amongst "the clique" are a real education! Not much has changed over the centuries. This is a must-read for any serious musician. I highly recommend it for students because it adds so many historical elements (Hey! We've got to sneak it in as much as possible!). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read Timeless Book By SDP More than just a collection of "what went wrong during the opera," we are treated to lessons in music history, arts management history, and social history. The situations themselves are quite funny - orchestra players asleep in the pit, talking in the pit, bass drums drowning out bad singing, etc.... The real treat, though, lies in the stories themselves and the lesser known composers to whom we are introduced. If you are a musician (singer or instrumentalist), you must give this a careful read. This isn't the casual "quick read," but one that takes a bit of concentration. The writings are as relevant today as ever!

During the performances of fashionable operas in an unidentified but "civilized" town in northern Europe, the musicians (with the exception of the conscientious bass drummer) tell tales, read stories, and exchange gossip to relieve the tedium of the bad music they are paid to perform. In this delightful and now classic narrative written by the brilliant composer and critic Hector Berlioz, we are privy to twenty-five highly entertaining evenings with a fascinating group of distracted performers. As we near the two-hundredth anniversary of Berlioz's birth, Jacques Barzun's pitch-perfect translation of *Evenings with the Orchestra* with a new foreword by Berlioz scholar Peter Bloom testifies to the enduring pleasure found in this most witty and amusing book. "[F]ull of knowledge, penetration, good sense, individual wit, stock humor, justifiable exasperation, understanding exaggeration, emotion and rhetoric of every kind." Randall Jarrell, *New York Times Book Review* "To succeed in [writing these tales], as Berlioz most brilliantly does, requires a combination of qualities which is very rare, the many-faceted curiosity of the dramatist with the aggressively personal vision of the lyric poet." W. H. Auden, *The Griffin*