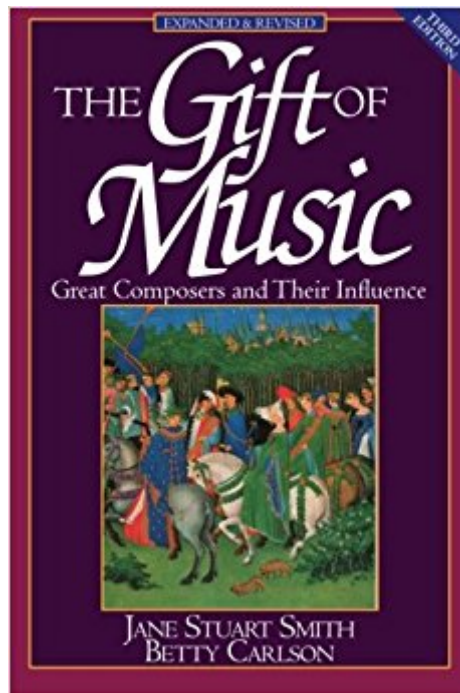




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# The Gift Of Music (Expanded And Revised, 3rd Edition): Great Composers And Their Influence



## Synopsis

One of the finest achievements of Western culture is its brilliant heritage of classical music. *A Gift of Music* looks at the lives of the greatest composers who have given us this heritage, and especially at how their music was shaped by their beliefs. The result is a remarkable and inspiring book, showing the importance of Christian faith for many composers, and the effect of this upon their music. But it also shows how the lack of faith has brought profound change in the meaning and form of contemporary music. Thus *A Gift of Music* seeks to open up a whole new world of music to encourage listening to the finest compositions with new understanding and pleasure, and to stretch our ears and imaginations. It is a book which will be greatly appreciated by those who already love classical music, and by others who want to explore this delightful world for the first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

JANE STUART SMITH has sung in the major opera houses of Europe and America. She presently lives at L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland, where she lectures in music.

BETTY CARLSON has studied at the Conservatory of Music in Lausanne, Switzerland, and now writes and works at L'Abri Fellowship. With Jane Stuart Smith, she coauthored Crossway's *Favorite Men*

*Hymn Writers* and *Favorite Women Hymn Writers*. Recognized internationally for his work in Christianity and culture, Francis A. Schaeffer authored more than twenty books, which have been translated into a score of languages and sold millions worldwide. He and his wife, Edith, founded

L'Abri Fellowship international study and discipleship centers. Schaeffer passed away in 1984, but his influence and legacy continue worldwide.

This is a great primer for folks age 11 and up on the world's best composers. There are so many books on this topic, that it's difficult to narrow in on a comprehensive one that won't put your children to sleep (seriously). These are short chapters, that are packed with interesting details that makes the composers and their lives memorable. Not a chore! A good read. Our sons read this over a three month period of time, and seemed to retain a fair amount of biographical info on their favorite composers. That's pretty much what we were looking for from the text. I'd highly recommend this because we have borrowed books, and purchased other books about the various composers - and honestly this is the best by far.

I bought this book to help inform other women about composers for our church. It is basic enough that anyone can get a brief history of the composer. It also gives a background though on the composers and their relationship to God. The Author did a great job though in making the composers real. There was something about each one that I could relate to in my own life. It is laid out chronologically by birthdate of the composer. It also gives a list of music that will help you get more of a feel for what that composers music sounded like. I had many women ask me about the book after I did the first "lesson" from it.

We are using this book as part of our homeschooling education and are very pleased with it. My daughter plays the piano and harp and wanted to learn specifically about Mendelssohn as she would like to play one of his pieces on the harp some day. We had trouble finding a book that had balanced information about the composers that wasn't riddled with non facts (fanciful musings!) or on the other hand way way deep in the muck of the composers lives. I honestly have not read the book, but do know that my daughter found this book to be PERFECT, I can only suppose by perusing it that it is written at an upper high school /college level. It's way worth the investment for my family to buy this new as I know we will be using it often.

An interesting and educational book, obviously a labor of love. We have read it several times.

This is a book with many chapters on a variety of great composers. The writers have included the usual suspects, i.e. Bach, Chopin, Beethoven, but many others are less known to the average music

listener. The chapters are short and can easily be revisited to refresh oneself on the details. The music lexicography at the end of each chapter is fine for the same level of music enthusiast. I have been reading the chapters and then finding some of the music on YouTube. It's a great way to enjoy both listening and learning.

This is such a great book to learn about musicians and composers in History. It was required reading for my daughters Fine Arts class and I enjoy reading it too! Easy to read and understand, yet plenty of good information.

Very interesting book.

The Gift of Music ....truly for the heart strings of the soul...Andrea A.

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