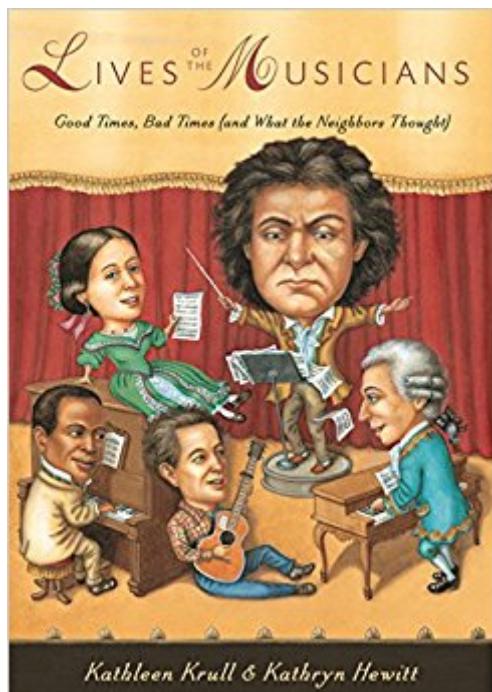


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# Lives Of The Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What The Neighbors Thought)



## Synopsis

Here are the life stories of such diverse figures as Vivaldi, Mozart, Scott Joplin, Nadia Boulanger, and Woody Guthrie. Readers will learn of both their musical natures and the personal, humorous characteristics that make their lives so fascinating. "Living, breathing anecdotes--the stuff of which the best biography is made."--Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Red was Mozart's favorite color. Beethoven was a slob. Clara Schumann's concerts were so popular that police had to be called in for crowd control. In this enthralling work, Krull dishes 16 of the movers and shakers in musical history--from Vivaldi and the "three B's" (Bach, Beethoven and Brahms) to Gilbert and Sullivan, Woody Guthrie and Scott Joplin (early critics of his ragtime accused it of causing permanent brain damage and ruining people's morals). Readers who thrive on offbeat information will be delighted by the splendid array of fun facts lurking in these informative and accurate snapshot biographies. Krull masterfully distills the essentials of each musician's life into snappy prose, an attitude echoed in the book's lively, playful design (the introductory page for each musician, for example, contains not only pertinent information but tantalizing, often cryptic "kickers" as well--the one above Brahms's name alludes to his checked underwear, which audiences occasionally glimpsed when the absent-minded conductor forgot to fasten his

suspenders). Hewitt's caricatures feature full-sized heads on tiny bodies--a slant that plays up the quirky presentation. She, too, has an eye for detail, pulling out appropriate visual tidbits from the text--Bach's prized silver coffeepots, for example, grace a page corner. Even those only remotely interested in music will be hooked by these living, breathing anecdotes--the stuff of which the best biography is made. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6 Up?This delightful and entertaining set presents interesting tidbits about 20 composers ranging from Vivaldi and Bach to Gilbert & Sullivan and Gershwin. Each mini-biography is just enough to hold listeners attention and entice them to find out more about the composer and his music. From the book by Kathleen Krull, the reading by John C. Brown and Melissa Hughes is crisp and easy to follow. Each composer's life is described briefly with some amusing personal items added for interest. Personal habits, relationships, and events are used to show the eccentricities and humanity of the men we think of as "great composers" today. After each biographical segment, Musical Notes discuss the motivation behind some of the great compositions. The audio loses a possible advantage over the book because the producers did not include more examples of the music. There is a brief sample at the beginning of each Musical Note, but even that is not identified. In general, this is a good production and, hopefully, will motivate teachers, parents, and young people to listen to the complete recordings.?Pat Griffith, Schlow Memorial Library, State College, PACopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A fun book to read. The pictures are great. It seems so child friendly by the looks. But then it mentions things like syphilis. Guess I'll keep this one to myself.

Good intro to great musicians...perfect for kids as they can appreciate these musical icons as real people as well as musical geniuses...and this is encouraging for young people just starting to explore their interests in great music.

A pleasure to read this book. I listen to a classical music station which includes interesting facts about the musicians' private lives. One day a guest mentioned that she knew where the host was obtaining these interesting facts. So it is a secret no longer; it's this book. Lives of the Musicians is light reading with approx. 2 pages of facts per musician, so it is not an in-depth look at their private

lives; however put it on your "Fun" reading list. It is a highly amusing book and a great source of dinner conversation. Also Check out Lives of the Artists:Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)

I bought this for my 10 year old granddaughter. I think that it is a nice introduction to composers for children. It will encourage them to read and research more about these and other musicians.

Great book for my niece, it's an easy read and quite informative. I'm happy I saw this book on . She will have fun reading this book and I will love seeing her read it. It was important for me to have her learn about the lives of these composers, not just that she play their music. Thanks !!

Love this book. A great way to make kids interested in the composers. Soooooo entertaining. My high schoolers loved it...easy to read.

My five year old loves this set of books. She started with Lives of the Presidents and then Lives of the Artists and now we are reading Lives of the Musicians. What a fun way for kids to learn about important people that have influenced Art and Music.

Fun way to give my students an introduction to composers. They loved and remembered the story and loved the picture.

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