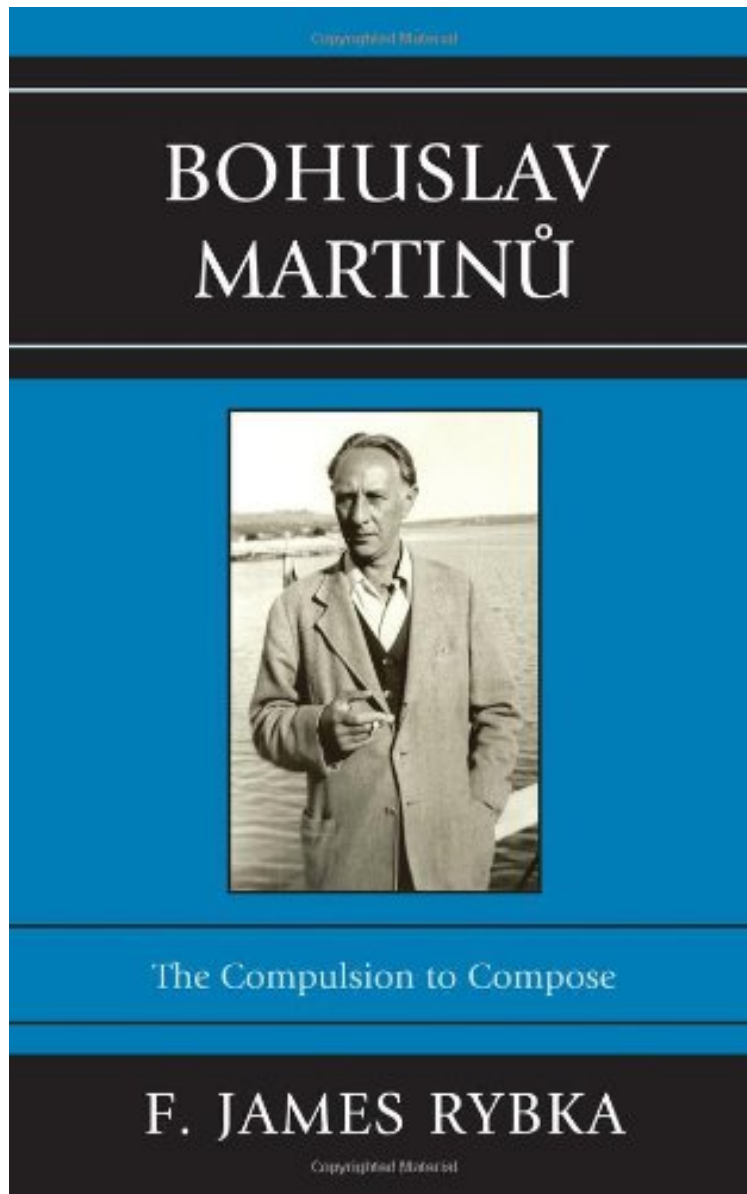


(Download free ebook) Bohuslav Martinu: The Compulsion to Compose

Bohuslav Martinu: The Compulsion to Compose

F. James Rybka

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F. James Rybka : Bohuslav Martinu: The Compulsion to Compose before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bohuslav Martinu: The Compulsion to Compose:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Martinu: The Man Behind the MusicBy MartinufanUnlike Martinu's previous biographers (Milos Safranek and Brian Large), Rybka moves beyond the familiar chronological overview of

his life and works to paint a flesh-and-blood portrait of the man as well. Since Rybka's father was a long-time friend of Martinu, and the author (as a child and young man) got to know him personally, he is eminently qualified to offer this "personality portrait" (warts and all). Rybka begins by presenting his medical thesis regarding Martinu's "compulsion to compose" and then unobtrusively offers supporting evidence in the midst of his chronological narrative when an apt biographical situation arises. How refreshing to read an author who has an interesting "take" on a subject, but sees no need to belabor his point or struggle to force unlikely facts into a procrustean bed to fit his theory. It's all very "casually" argued, and all the more convincing as a result. I found the book a real page-turner. True, it is less musicological, but is infinitely more human and engaging than the previously mentioned biographies. Anyone who knows Martinu's music well knows something of his "soul," but to reconcile this with the outward "shell," his personality and actions, is a leap - and one that Rybka attempts to bridge. If you know Martinu's music, reading this book will certainly make you more aware of the sometimes glaring differences between the "outer man" and the inner creative spirit, and to be reminded not to judge the one by the other. And so, deep thanks are due to Dr. Rybka for expanding our understanding of human behavior even beyond his intended subject. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A prolific composer. By PeteklatAs is the case with composers who produce greatly, (Martinu seems to have put pen to paper every day) the output is somewhat uneven. But the best music is no less than utterly brilliant. Rybka discusses WHY Martinu seems to have been driven to compose so much, and he may have a point. You have to read the book to find out. I found his book very convincing, just as I do most of Martinu's music. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the artist By jimpyThe author through personal experience with Martinu and with extensive research on autism demonstrates why this socially inept composer has the compensatory gift of compulsive orchestral composition fairly exploding from brain onto pen and paper. Asperger's Syndrome is the perfect fit explaining Martinu's deficiencies and his genius. An easy to read text with superb explanatory footnotes that maintains the reader's interest throughout.

Bohemian composer Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959) was exceptionally prolific, composing over 400 imaginative, well-crafted, and diverse pieces, including symphonies, operas, ballet scores, and other orchestral works. For 12 years (1941-1953), he lived in America, during which he enjoyed a brilliant reputation, and his works were played by nearly all the major orchestras. Yet today, his works are rarely performed. In *Bohuslav Martinu: The Compulsion to Compose*, F. James Rybka provides a documented explanation for Martinu's amazing output: he had Asperger syndrome. Indeed, Martinu is believed to be the first composer ever to be documented, albeit retrospectively, with an autistic spectrum disorder. In this unique biography, Rybka follows Martinu's life from his birth in Policka, Bohemia to his composition studies with Albert Roussel, his escape from Nazis, and his rise as an internationally recognized composer with premieres of his works in Boston, Prague, London, and Basel. As Rybka explains how the dynamics of Asperger Syndrome affected the composer's work, readers will more fully appreciate Martinu's accomplishments and legacy. Containing important letters and photographs, this book will inspire and inform those impacted by autism but will also be of interest to music scholars and students alike.

The finest biography of Bohuslav Martinu I know in English....Rybka's biography is detailed and engagingly written. His insight is personal and convincing....His text is well balanced between quotations and narration, pictures abound, the book is well indexed and notated....Reading this account is like having a long, pleasant personal discussion with Rybka about a fascinating uncle he knew very well. (American Record Guide)The project of this book represents an admirable undertaking....With the help of the documents he has at his disposal, he is able to bring to life his family's long-term friendship with Martinu, as well as include his own thoughtful observations about Martinu and his personality. (Notes: Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association)Overall, I believe this an extremely valuable contribution to a rounded picture of this wonderful composer. (Classical Net)About the AuthorF. James Rybka, now retired, graduated from Cornell Medical School and became a plastic surgeon. Bohuslav Martinu was a close family friend.