

# Felix Mendelssohn: A Life in Music



## Mendelssohn: A Life in Music by R. Larry Todd

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 15366 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 740 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Felix Mendelssohn was one of the most celebrated composers of the Romantic era. His music is known for its beauty, elegance, and emotional depth. In this captivating book, author John Eliot Gardiner explores Mendelssohn's life and work, providing a vivid portrait of the man and his music.

## Early Life and Education

Felix Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg, Germany, on February 3, 1809. His father, Abraham Mendelssohn, was a wealthy banker and philosopher. His mother, Lea Salomon, was a talented musician. Mendelssohn's parents provided him with a privileged upbringing, and he received a top-notch education in music, literature, and the arts.

Mendelssohn began composing at a young age, and he quickly displayed a prodigious talent. By the time he was 12 years old, he had already

composed several major works, including the String Octet and the Piano Concerto No. 1.

## **Career**

Mendelssohn's career as a composer and conductor began to take off in the early 1820s. He traveled extensively throughout Europe, performing his music and meeting with other musicians. In 1829, he was appointed conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, one of the most prestigious orchestras in Europe.

Mendelssohn's music was widely admired by his contemporaries, and he was considered one of the leading composers of his time. He composed a wide variety of works, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music, and choral works. His most famous works include the "Italian" Symphony, the "Hebrides" Overture, and the oratorio "Elijah."

## **Personal Life**

Mendelssohn was a devoted husband and father. He married Cécile Jeanrenaud in 1837, and they had five children together. Mendelssohn was also a close friend of many other artists, including the composers Franz Liszt and Robert Schumann.

Mendelssohn died in Leipzig on November 4, 1847, at the age of 38. His death was a great loss to the world of music, and he is still remembered today as one of the greatest composers of all time.

## **Legacy**

Mendelssohn's music has had a lasting impact on the world of classical music. His works are still performed and enjoyed by audiences around the

world. Mendelssohn is also credited with helping to revive interest in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

In addition to his music, Mendelssohn also made significant contributions to the world of conducting and music education. He was one of the first conductors to use a baton, and he also founded the Leipzig Conservatory of Music, one of the most prestigious music schools in the world.

Felix Mendelssohn was one of the most gifted and versatile musicians of the Romantic era. His music is known for its beauty, elegance, and emotional depth. In this captivating book, author John Eliot Gardiner explores Mendelssohn's life and work, providing a vivid portrait of the man and his music.

Whether you are a lifelong fan of Mendelssohn's music or are just discovering his work for the first time, this book is a must-read. Gardiner's engaging writing style and deep knowledge of Mendelssohn's life and music make this book a truly unforgettable experience.

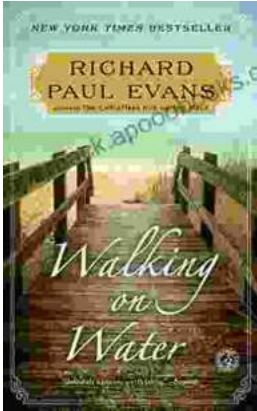


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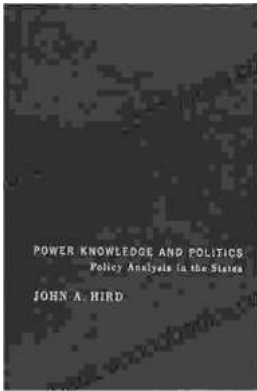
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