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# Igor Stravinsky (20th Century Composers)



## Synopsis

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) is regarded as the inventor of modern music. His phenomenal achievements are comparable to those of his close friend and contemporary Pablo Picasso. This comprehensive biography traces the influences that informed his style and sets all of his major works into context, devoting particular attention to the composer's childhood in pre-revolutionary Russia. It charts his discovery by Diaghilev and traces his ensuing collaborations with choreographers, dancers, painters, designers, and writers. Above all the book concentrates on Stravinsky's creativity, describing how his musical mind worked and relating this to his complex and fascinating personality. Igor Stravinsky is part of Phaidon's successful 20th Century Composers series, which presents authoritative and engaging biographies of the great creative musicians of our time, augmented by striking visual material and essential reference information. This edition of the book features a whimsical new cover by Jean-Jacques Sempy, the world-renowned illustrator and cartoonist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From his unhappy childhood in St. Petersburg through his years in Paris and the United States, from *The Nightingale* through *The Owl* and the *Pussycat*, British writer Michael Oliver traces the life and work of Igor Stravinsky. His landmark ballet, *The Rite of Spring* is thought of as a classic today, but it inspired riots at its Paris premiere in 1913. Oliver follows Stravinsky's work from juvenilia through

modernism and serialism and back to tonalism in an easily accessible biography, part of the Phaidon Press Limited 20th Century Composers series. This book, which never gets too technical, makes a good start for anyone with a growing interest in Stravinsky and his music. There is a guide to his works and to other biographies in the back of the book. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A near-ideal introduction to the composer."-Gramophone "One's only regret about [Michael Oliver's] two books is that they are not longer."-Classic CD On the 20th Century Composers Series "As a series, Phaidon's 20th Century Composers has brought remarkable variety and a welter of information, both necessary and delightfully trivial. Intended both for the general reader and for the more enthusiastically musical."-The Scotsman

Igor Stravinsky is truly one of the giants, if not the giant, of 20th century music. Michael Oliver accurately captures the essence of the man and his music in this book about the man and his life and times. First of all, the book is well written. The music is described thoroughly and there is also a discography as well as a catalogue of the works written by Stravinsky. For the most part, this book is a biography with its central focus on Stravinsky. We meet various characters that played an important role in Stravinsky's life including the impresario Serge Diaghilev. I highly recommend this book to anybody who wants to be enlightened about one of the giants of twentieth century music.

This is an interesting little book about a somewhat overlooked composer. The author has packed it with a number of surprising details of his private life which help give insight into his creative genius. Additionally, he spent a great deal of time analyzing each of his major works and then lining them up to demonstrate the evolution of his final imprint on music. Near the end of his life, for instance, the influence of Arnold Schoenberg's twelve note serial techniques began to seep into Stravinsky's works for the first time - something he had long resisted. Finally, the book is filled with rare and long forgotten photographs of the man and his time and these alone are almost worth the price of the book.

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