

Late Beethoven



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著者:Maynard Solomon

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In a series of powerful strokes, the music of Beethoven's last years redefined his legacy and enlarged the realm of experience accessible to the creative imagination. Maynard Solomon's "Late Beethoven" investigates the phenomenon of the final phase, focusing especially on the striking metamorphosis in Beethoven's system of beliefs that began early in his fifth decade and eventually amounted to a sweeping realignment of his views of nature, antiquity, divinity, and human purpose. Using the composer's letters, diaries, and conversation books, Solomon traces Beethoven's attraction to a constellation of heterogeneous ideas, drawn from Romanticism, Freemasonry, comparative religion, Eastern initiatory ritual, Mediterranean mythology, aesthetics, and classical and contemporary thought. Through these often arcane sources, Beethoven gained access to a vast reservoir of imagery and ideas with the potential to expand music's expressive and communicative reach. This 'multitude of productive images,' writes Solomon, 'provided kindling for the blaze of his imagination.' "Late Beethoven" is a rich tapestry of original perspectives on Beethoven's music. Solomon sees the Seventh Symphony as a deployment of the rhythms of antiquity in an effort to revalidate the premises of the Classical world; the Ninth as an essay on the prospects and limits of affirmative, monumental endings; and the 'Diabelli' Variations as a doorway to the universe of metaphoric significances that attach to beginnings. In the Violin Sonata in G, op. 96, Solomon finds a restoration of the full range of pastoral experience that the ancient poets had known. In the Grosse Fuge he locates issues of fragmentation and reassembly, and he suggests that pivotal passages of the last sonatas evoke sacred states of being. These stimulating perspectives illuminate the inner world within which Beethoven dwelled during his last fifteen years and the ways in which his thought and music may be interrelated. Written in accessible and eloquent prose, and with numerous music examples, "Late Beethoven" is a serious contribution to understanding this miraculous quantum leap in Beethoven's creative evolution.

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评论

三星半 我只想说，共济会这个研究角度已经被玩坏了

非常不容易读的一本书，需要相当的德文与拉丁文阅读能力。不过晚年的所罗门为我们大胆地打开了理解贝多芬的新窗口：贝多芬思想与作品中的浪漫主义元素、共济会思想，等等。我觉得更重要的一点就是：所罗门在这本书中大量地通过大胆的想象来理解作品，努力地寻找贝多芬作品中的叙事元素，并且使用贝多芬的书信、日记和速记本来加以佐证，我个人觉得还是比较成功的。相关研究文献的引用相当之多，十分有用。

根本不知道他們爲什麼要幹“understanding this miraculous quantum leap in Beethoven's creative evolution”這事，就算去做，也太把外界影響黨回事了。顯然evolution肯定是在外界影響下發生的，但就這種簡單的“認同”“反對”式理解簡直就是頭腦簡單的範本。

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书评
