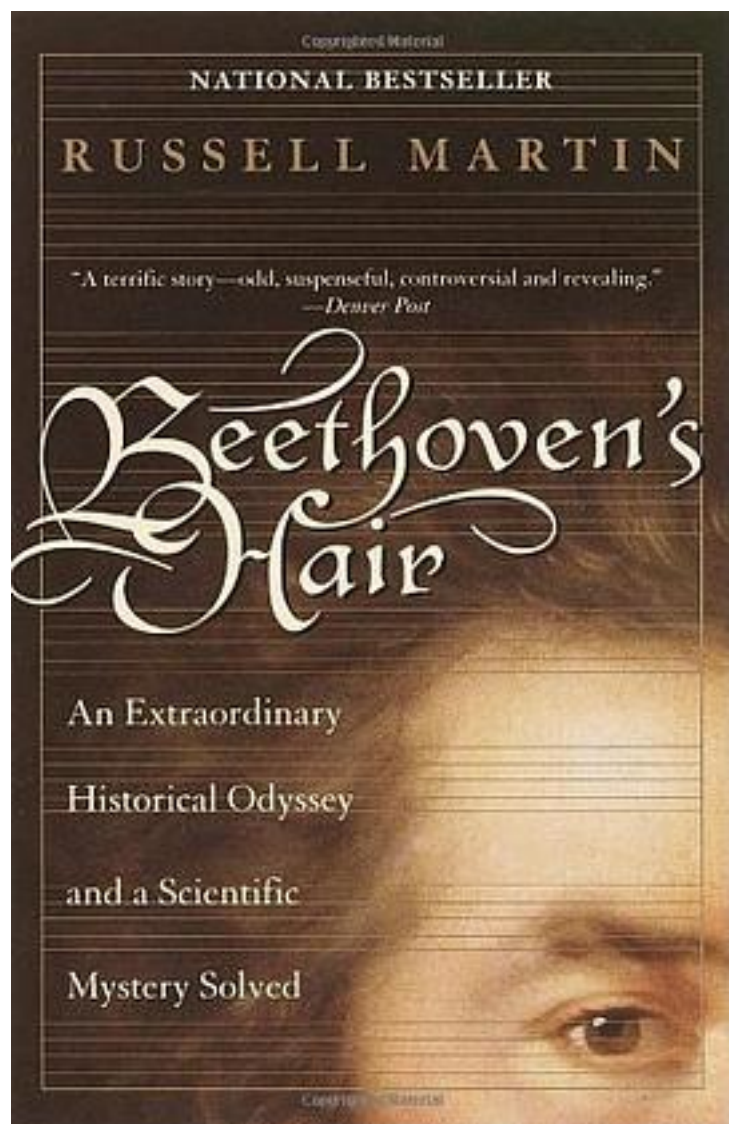


# Beethoven's Hair



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Ludwig van Beethoven lay dying in 1827, a young musician named Ferdinand Hiller came to pay his respects to the great composer. In those days, it was customary to snip a lock of hair as a keepsake, and this Hiller did a day after Beethoven's death. By the time he was buried, Beethoven's head had been nearly shorn by the many people who similarly had wanted a lasting memento of the great man. Such was his powerful effect on all those who had heard his music.

For a century, the lock of hair was a treasured Hiller family relic, and perhaps was destined to end up sequestered in a bank vault, until it somehow found its way to the town of Gilleleje, in Nazi-occupied Denmark, during the darkest days of the Second World War. There, it was given to a local doctor, Kay Fremming, who was deeply involved in the effort to help save hundreds of hunted and frightened Jews. Who gave him the hair, and why? And what was the fate of those refugees, holed up in the attic of Gilleleje's church?

After Fremming's death, his daughter assumed ownership of the lock, and eventually consigned it for sale at Sotheby's, where two American Beethoven enthusiasts, Ira Brilliant and Che Guevara, purchased it in 1994. Subsequently, they and others instituted a series of complex forensic tests in the hope of finding the probable causes of the composer's chronically bad health, his deafness, and the final demise that Ferdinand Hiller had witnessed all those years ago. The results, revealed for the first time here, are startling, and are the most compelling explanation yet offered for why one of the foremost musicians the world has ever known was forced to spend much of his life in silence.

In *Beethoven's Hair*, Russell Martin has created a rich historical treasure hunt, an Indiana Jones-like tale of false leads, amazing breakthroughs, and incredible revelations. This unique and fascinating book is a moving testament to the power of music, the lure of relics, the heroism of the Resistance movement, and the brilliance of molecular science.

An astonishing tale of one lock of hair and its amazing travels--from nineteenth-century Vienna to twenty-first-century America.

作者介绍:

編輯推薦

一個偉人，習慣以一種「雖死猶存」——其「音容宛在」的含糊字眼來表達。但是，他的一撮頭髮、他身體上的一小部份，都代表他，代表他「還在這裡」。《貝多芬的頭髮》就以貝多芬的一撮頭髮當作線頭，一路拉下去，就是兩百年的歷史。緊緊拉著現在。這個結構，是雙螺旋的基因結構。羅素·馬丁所寫的這本《貝多芬的頭髮》，就完成了鬼魂電影的雙向時間的現實。頭髮拉著他，邁向2001年。這是第一個靈光，推向過去，走向未來。

在羅蘭巴特所寫的《明室》當中，一開場就提到拿破崙幼帝的照片，他說：就是這張眼睛，他見過拿破崙。而看照片的這個人看見「曾經以眼睛看過」拿破崙的人，就因此「我看見了拿破崙」。同樣底，握有一束貝多芬的頭髮，它就是貝多芬。如同一個聖者「身上的一個小部份」也閃耀著神聖的光輝一樣，在《香水》裡香魔將他從所有處女身上攝取來的香味倒到自己身上的一瞬間，全巴黎的人衝向他把他撕的粉碎，狼吞虎嚥的吞下去，卻在當場感覺到幸福的無限喜悅。或是格林那威《魔法聖嬰》裡，已死的嬰兒而

其「洗過神」的光，而讓他每個部位都被肢解，而每個被肢解的部分都叫價昂貴。這是「頭髮」在這本書中的第二個「靈光」。

頭髮進入了百姓家，貝多芬的一撮頭髮走進稗官野史般的地下航道。一路的傳送和擁有，就是一場歷史的結構，這相當接近吉哈的電影《紅色小提琴》。在小說史當中，英國小說家Julien Barnes以馬賽克鑲嵌的概念，拼出了一本《福婁拜的鸚鵡》。有一個法國人將卡夫卡的真實生命故事夾在他的小說當中，寫成了一本卡夫卡走進城堡的小說，《迷宮裡的惡夢》，或是一本歷史教師所講的故事，將自然史地方誌法國大革命個人族譜、交交錯錯如一條河的流域的小說《水之鄉》。《貝多芬的頭髮》也充滿這類歷史小說的神髓，細節，典故。卻可惜底沒有成為一本小說，而其風味底差別，則只欠了一點點鹽。

一個寫實的故事，一把貝多芬的頭髮。書寫了貝多芬身後兩百年的音樂史、二次大戰的猶太浩劫史，以及拆開玻璃後拿到顯微鏡之下，的現在。這撮頭髮，恆常的彰顯，貝多芬的在。2001年，你打開書，就睜眼凝望在顯微鏡底下的那撮頭髮，在高度的化驗之後。終於證明：貝多芬死於鉛中毒。（文／林則良）

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