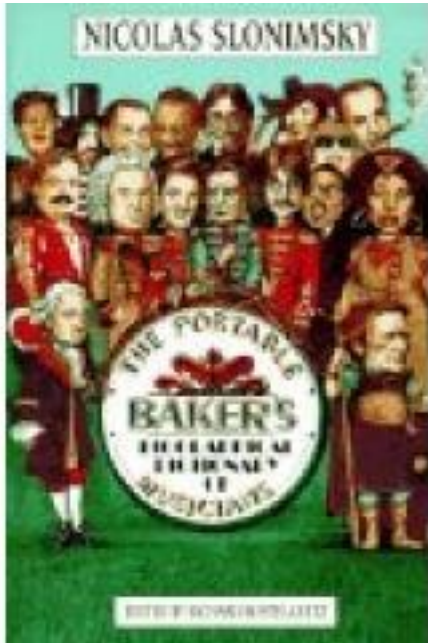


# The Portable Bakers Biographical Dictionary of Musicians



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## INTRODUCTION

Johnson is engaged in the impersonal task of compiling a dictionary; but he has made that task personal to himself has rooted himself in the centre of the work that is to be done, partly by the length and arduousness of his labours but even more so by his

unreserved acceptance of his own destiny as an English man of letters.

--John Wain, Samuel Johnson (1974)

The first Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians appeared in 1900. Its editor, Theodore Baker, was an American, born in New York in 1851, who went to Leipzig to do a dissertation on Native American music. Returning to his homeland in 1890, he worked for the New York publishing house of G. Schirmer, producing not only the first edition of Baker's but a second in 1905, among other books. Nicolas Slonimsky arrived in the 1940s to produce a Supplement to the fourth edition, which appeared in 1949. Taking charge, he published a completely revised fifth edition in 1958, a sixth in 1978, a seventh in 1984, and an eighth in 1991. Ever larger than its predecessors, the last has 2115 pages with double columns; containing approximately two million words, it weighs eight pounds. As a one-volume compendium, it has no competitors and probably never will. Some expository writers produce books; others favor essays. A rare few excel at the art of the entry. What Nicolas Slonimsky (1894-) shares with Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) is the production

作者介绍:

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