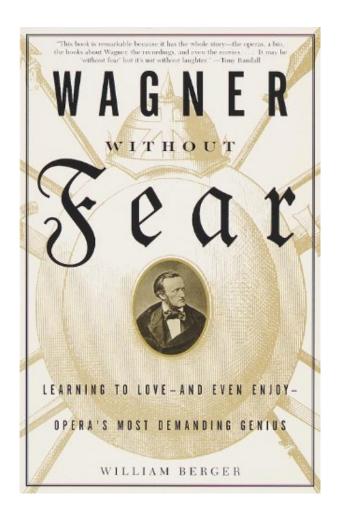
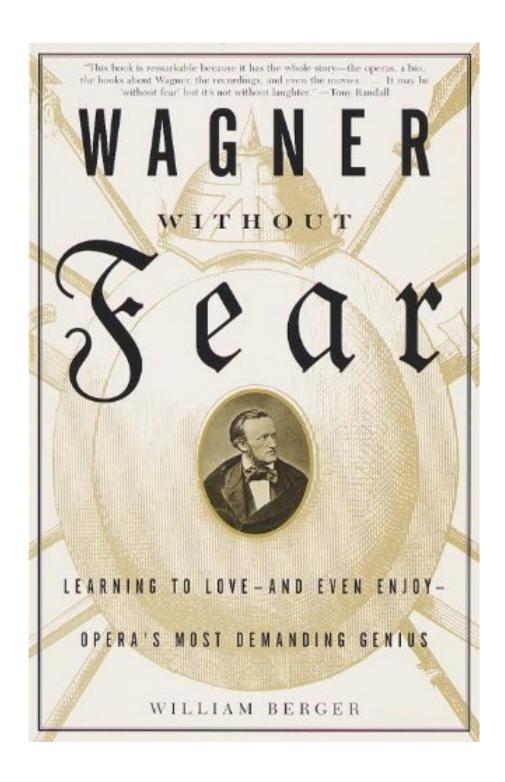
WAGNER WITHOUT FEAR: LEARNING TO LOVE--AND EVEN ENJOY--OPERA'S MOST DEMANDING GENIUS BY WILLIAM BERGER



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Wagner Without Fear: Learning To Love--and Even Enjoy--Opera's Most Demanding Genius By William Berger. Change your behavior to put up or throw away the moment to just chat with your pals. It is done by your everyday, do not you feel bored? Now, we will certainly reveal you the extra habit that, actually it's a very old behavior to do that can make your life much more certified. When feeling burnt out of always chatting with your buddies all leisure time, you could find guide qualify Wagner Without Fear: Learning To Love--and Even Enjoy--Opera's Most Demanding Genius By William Berger then read it.

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Extremely Enjoyable Wagner Overview!

By A Customer

For those new to the world of Richard Wagner, this book provides a delightful overview. Starting with an introduction to the Wagner phenomenon (in which no one is ambivalent...you either love Wagner or hate him), proceeding through a biographical sketch, then on to studies of the major operas, CD and book recommendations, and much more, this book will serve as an excellent springboard to deeper studies. I would have like to have seen more discussion of leitmotiv, simply because it is so integral to understanding Wagner, but that information is certainly available in more detail elsewhere...particularly on the Cooke CD. Perhaps the best thing about this book is that it avoids the snobbery that is so often found in Wagner discussions...it even serves as a guide to understanding the different types of Wagner fans and their diverse (to put it mildly) opinions.

This book reveals that Richard Wagner was one of the world's great geniuses, despite his many bizarre and distasteful characteristics...but then again, perhaps it merely confirms the old adage that the line between genius and insanity is precariously thin.

This book is highly recomended.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Berger is King of Wagnerite Valhalla

By C. M Mills

American humorist Mark Twain wryly obeserved, "Wagner's operas are not as bad as they sound!" With wit, warmth, expertise and instructions on rest room breaks this book will enterain you! Berger is a musician and linguist who is able to explain the byzantinian plots of Wagnerian opera with simplicyh, conciseness and humor. As an opera fan with a general knowledge of Wagner I found the book useful. Useful because:

- 1. He has a good plot synopsis of each major Wagner opera
- 2. He gives a brief but adequate sketch of the life of the titatnic German anti-semtic genius.
- 3. Berger includes the best books, CD's and videos for the neophyte as well as the experienced fan of a titanic but flawed genius. Relish Berger's witty style as you learn more about a great artist. Highly recommended.

9 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Bravo for Berger as he explores the Bayreuth Genius.

By C. M Mills

By all accounts Richard Wagner was an antisemtic bigot who practiced the art of adultery, seduction and other nefarious activities in nineteenth century Europe. He was also a musical genius who revolutionized the staid world of opera.

William Berger gives the reader a guide written in a popular, witty yet erudite style which enchants as it enterains.

Berger provides us with plot summaries of the major Wagner operas while adding chapters dealing with everything from a bibliograpy of valuable books on Wagner; a chapter on Wagner on CD's and even when to plan for bathroom breaks during interminable evenings of Wagner watching in the theatre!

I found his description of the ambience at Bayreuth to be a fascinating glimpse of the mecca for all true Wagnerites making the pilgrimage to the shirne of the Master.

This book will be a welcome addition to newcomers to the art of Wagner as well as seasoned operagoers.

I will keep this book on my shelf for easy access while whiling away Saturday afternoons tuned in to the Met or enjoying an evening of Tristan and Isolde on my Bose radio.

Berger is readable and opinionated. This book comes highly recommended by this reviewer.

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