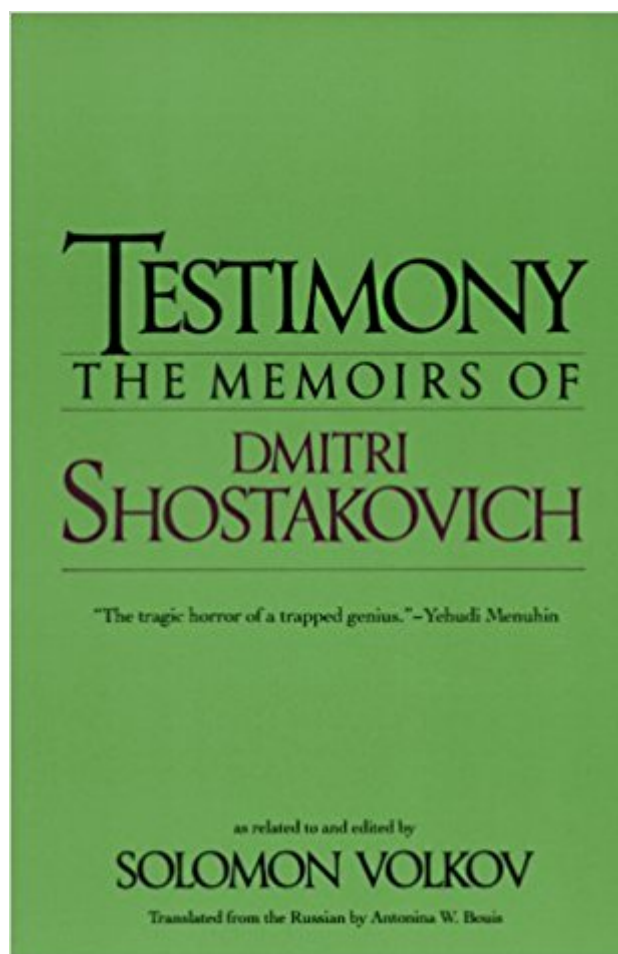


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Testimony: The Memoirs Of Dmitri Shostakovich



Synopsis

A serious indictment of some 55 years of Soviet musical life as witnessed by a major Russian artist--Dmitri Shostakovich.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I do not know of a musician who will not read it with compassion and admiration' Andre Previn"

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, Russian (translation)

Remarkable piece of work. It left me wanting to know more, so I am now reading Elizabeth Wilson's biography of the composer.

Anybody who likes 20th century music -- AND 20th century history -- must read this. Great, one-of-a-kind autobiography.

An historic document in every sense. The clear-eyed sorrow and sardonic wit identify their owner unmistakably. One wishes he had had the time to extend and explore what is sometimes only hinted at. The clarifying footnotes are a distinct help to the Western reader. And the text's opinions and reports of Western attitudes, remind us how little we were allowed to know in those shadowed

times.

One can only fully appreciate Shostakovich's music, especially his symphonies, by understanding what his life was like within Soviet Russia at the time. His delicate relationship with Stalin and Soviet authorities, the constant threat of arrest and death for himself and his family, the fate of many of his friends. All of these realities are expressed in his music. This book is a chilling yet fascinating read.

This book provides wonderful (and terrifying) looks at the music community during the Stalinist period in the Soviet Union. While telling warm anecdotes about composers such as Glazanov, Shostakovich also gives insights into the fears and uncertainties of composing music true to his artistic vision while still trying to survive Stalin's purges. It is told in a a straight forward manner without self-pity. I recommend it to readers who enjoy biographies of composers and/or who enjoy 20th century history.

This is a tremendous book. I recommend it to anyone, but especially to musicians, who will appreciate the genius of Shostakovich even more when they read this first hand account about what a nightmare it was to be an artist in Stalinist Russia.

Incisive glimpse into life under the Stalinist regime from the composer's perspective. Glad there are more copies available. Considering ordering the DVD as well.

I often wonder if it is the dire condition that made Shostakovitch write such moving and effective music. To say that life under Stalin was not easy is a gross understatement. Shostakovitch was thought to be not protesting the situation sufficiently. Yet I am grateful that he trod the line carefully and survived to write his music as testimony for the world and future generations.

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