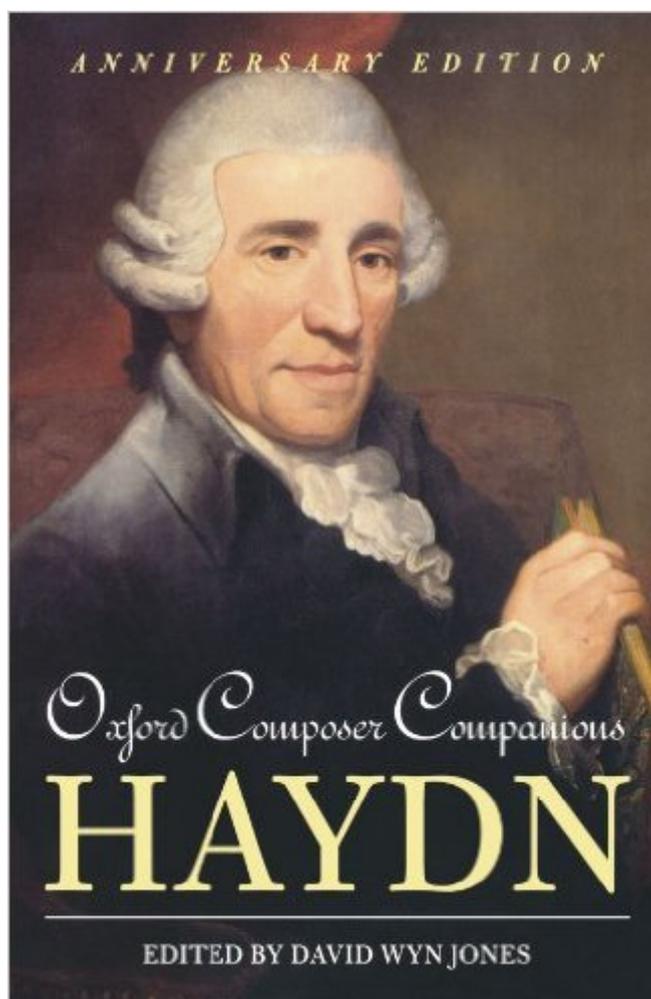


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# Oxford Composer Companions: Haydn



## Synopsis

Hailed in *Symphony* magazine as "an invaluable aid to scholars," this new paperback edition offers a gold mine of information on the immensely prolific Austrian composer and the father of both the symphony and the string quartet--Joseph Haydn. In more than 900 alphabetical entries, Haydn's world is brought to vivid life. All of his music is highlighted, including his symphonies, concertos, masses, oratorios, operas, string quartets and other chamber works, sonatas, and miscellaneous choral pieces. The volume includes informative entries on Haydn's family, friends, patrons and contemporaries (Mozart and the young Beethoven among them) and it illuminates the many ideas, influences, and aesthetics that played a major role in his life. Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Haydn's death, this superb companion is an invaluable resource for students, teachers, and music lovers, offering a wealth of information, complemented by maps, family trees, a chronology, a list of works, and expert assessments of Haydn's compositions and increasing popularity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Wyn Jones, the editor of this outstanding 2002 reference work on Haydn, (1732 -- 1809), notes in his Preface that "Joseph Haydn was the last 'great' composer to be adequately served by scholarship." This book, part of the Oxford Composer Companion series, fulfills its promise of offering a comprehensive guide to Haydn's life, music, and legacy based upon the most up-to-date

modern scholarship. David Wyn Jones is senior lecturer in music at the University of Wales and the author of numerous books about Haydn and the Classical Era. The 900 plus entries in this volume were prepared by 41 contributors, each a Haydn scholar in their own right. This book is a treasure-trove of information about Haydn for the lover of his music. I was drawn to this book to help me in my project, completed recently, of listening to CDs of each of Haydn's 104 numbered symphonies and preparing a survey of them in reviews on this site. Thus, the Oxford Companion includes a 34-page essay on Haydn's symphonies by Professor Simon McVeigh, Goldsmith College, University of London. Professor McVeigh's article includes an introduction to symphonic form and traces its development from Haydn's earliest to his final works in nine carefully organized sections. Virtually every symphony is given some individual attention, as McVeigh examines the course of Haydn's symphonic writing throughout the 36 years he employed it. I found this guide indispensable to my project of getting to understand Haydn's symphonies myself in some detail and preparing a survey of them to encourage others to hear them. I supplemented the basic article on the symphony with many others from this volume, including, most basically, a long biography of the composer written by Wyn Jones.

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