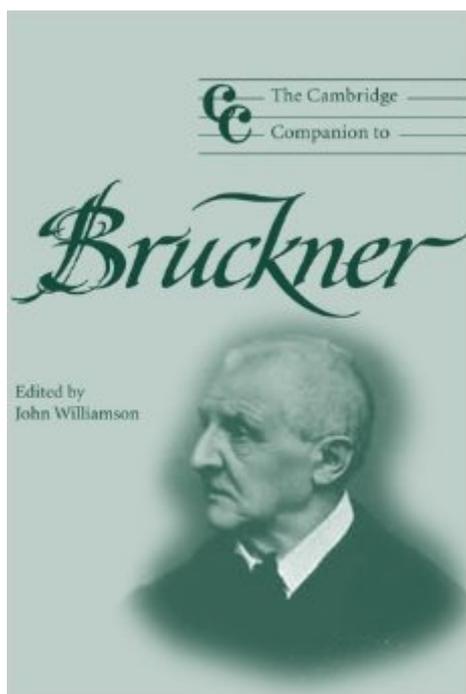


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# The Cambridge Companion To Bruckner (Cambridge Companions To Music)



## Synopsis

This Companion provides an overview of the composer Anton Bruckner (1824–1896). Sixteen chapters by leading scholars investigate aspects of his life and works and consider the manner in which critical appreciation has changed in the twentieth century. The first section deals with Bruckner's Austrian background, investigating the historical circumstances in which he worked, his upbringing in Upper Austria, and his career in Vienna. A number of misunderstandings are dealt with in the light of recent research. The remainder of the book covers Bruckner's career as church musician and symphonist, with a chapter on the neglected secular vocal music. Religious, aesthetic, formal, harmonic, and instrumental aspects are considered, while one chapter confronts the problem of the editions of the symphonies. Two concluding chapters discuss the symphonies in performance, and the history of Bruckner-reception with particular reference to German Nationalism, the Third Reich and the appropriation of Bruckner by the Nazis.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a great book, but it's not for everyone. The book is divided into four sections: Part One,

Background Part Two, Choral Music Part Three, The Symphonist Part Four, Reception If you are interested in reading biographical material about Bruckner's life and times, then a few of the 16 chapters are interesting. (Don't get me wrong, all of the writing is of the highest caliber.) But, if you cannot read music, then a lot of the book will be uninteresting. And, if you haven't studied music seriously - say, deep into college music theory - then a sizable portion of this book will be indecipherable to you. If you are professional or highly educated musician, you will find a wealth of technical information here that will assist you in score study and research. You will find a few chapters with harmonic analysis and a few chapters with structural analysis. As almost always with writings about Bruckner and his music, more than a few pages are dedicated to hermeneutics. Again, if this is your area of interest, then this book is for you. So, once again, a sizable portion of the book is dedicated to the very technical craft of musical harmonic analysis replete with analysis and diagrams. If you enjoy this sort of thing, then by all means dive in!

I would like to write a more extensive review of this book, given that it's a compilation of articles from several Bruckner scholars. This is a MUST book for Bruckner lovers. Yes, it presumes a bit of musical knowledge, but even a novice like me can learn a great deal. I especially enjoyed Derek Scott's assertion of light and darkness in Bruckner. Scott, to me, grasps Bruckner's underlying spirituality (not religious or ecclesiological).

Tough for a non-academic but the information, though sometimes over extensive for me, is excellent. If you seek in-depth information, this is your book. If you seek an easy read thru the life and works of Bruckner, seek elsewhere.

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