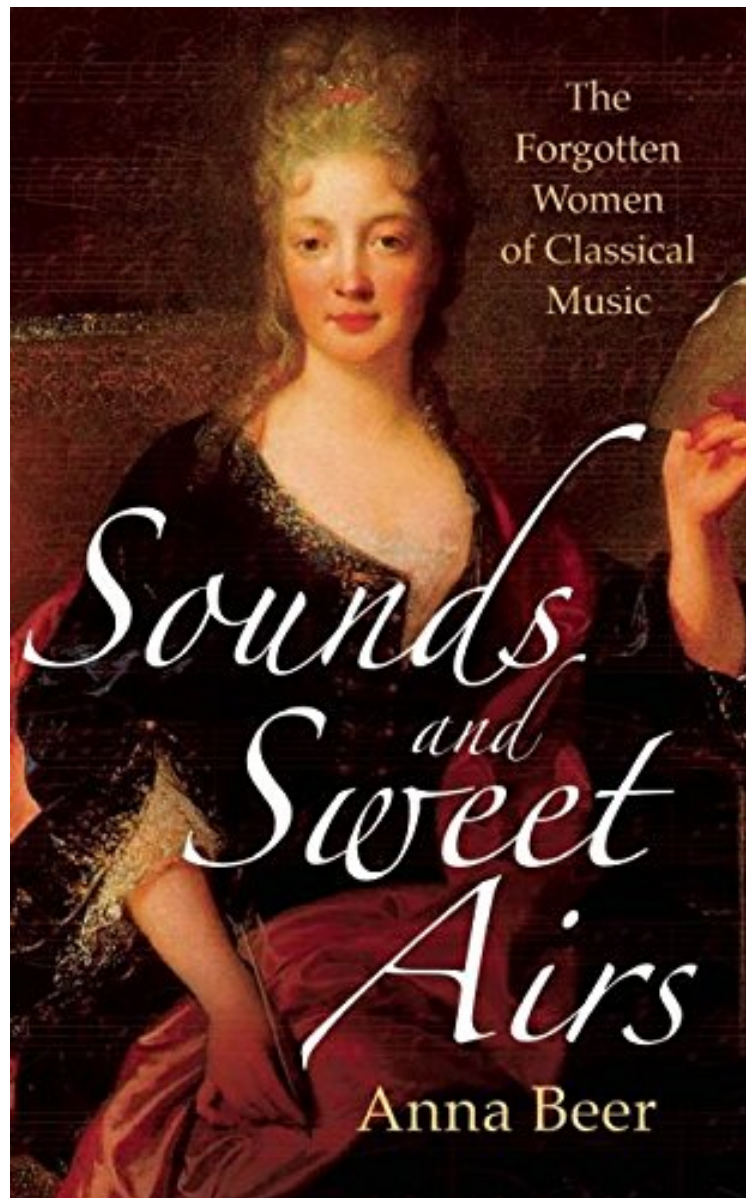


(Free pdf) Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music

Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music

Anna Beer

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Anna Beer : Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. |Readable volume of biographiesBy Paul XuerebThe biographies are informative both as regards the composer's personal lives and their compositions. It is also a very readable book.1 of 2

people found the following review helpful. Good book about some of the more well-known historical female composers
By Zorro
Interesting to read some of this, but if you already know quite a bit about female composers, you won't learn a lot that you don't already know. It gives short synopses of the "usual" historical female composers Caccini, Strozzi, de la Guerre, Martines, Hensel, Schumann, Boulanger and, a composer of more recent vintage, Maconchy. The book is, however, well-written. And if you don't know much about these composers, the stories of their lives and accomplishments are engagingly brought to life.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By John Bratland
Excellent

"The cultural historian Anna Beer's rewarding new book about the forgotten women of classical music includes insightful portraits of eight composers, a couple of whom are truly forgotten, like the 17th-century Italian Francesca Caccini. But penetrating essays on better-known figures, like Clara Schumann, are even more interesting for the way Ms. Beer conveys the sexism and lifelong frustrations some immensely gifted creative artists encountered. Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times* As Heard on NPR's Weekend Edition Absorbing ... [Beer] writes with rich detail and sympathetic insight about [these women's] ambitious, adventurous battles to overcome barriers to creativity."
Publishers Weekly

"I am constantly in search of books that explore the lives of women who have been dismissed or overlooked by history, and this is what makes Anna Beer's latest book a total godsend. **SOUNDS AND SWEET AIRS: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music** is an intoxicating historical examination of the way gender has shaped what we consider to be canonical. While reading, it became alarmingly clear to me that we're missing out as a culture because prolific female virtuosos like Francesca Caccini, Clara Schumann, and Marianna Martines remain unknown to the masses. Beer's impassioned overview delves into the hopes, motivations, and struggles each woman faced as she attempted to pursue her vocation while coping with the "boys club" mentality of their respective music communities.