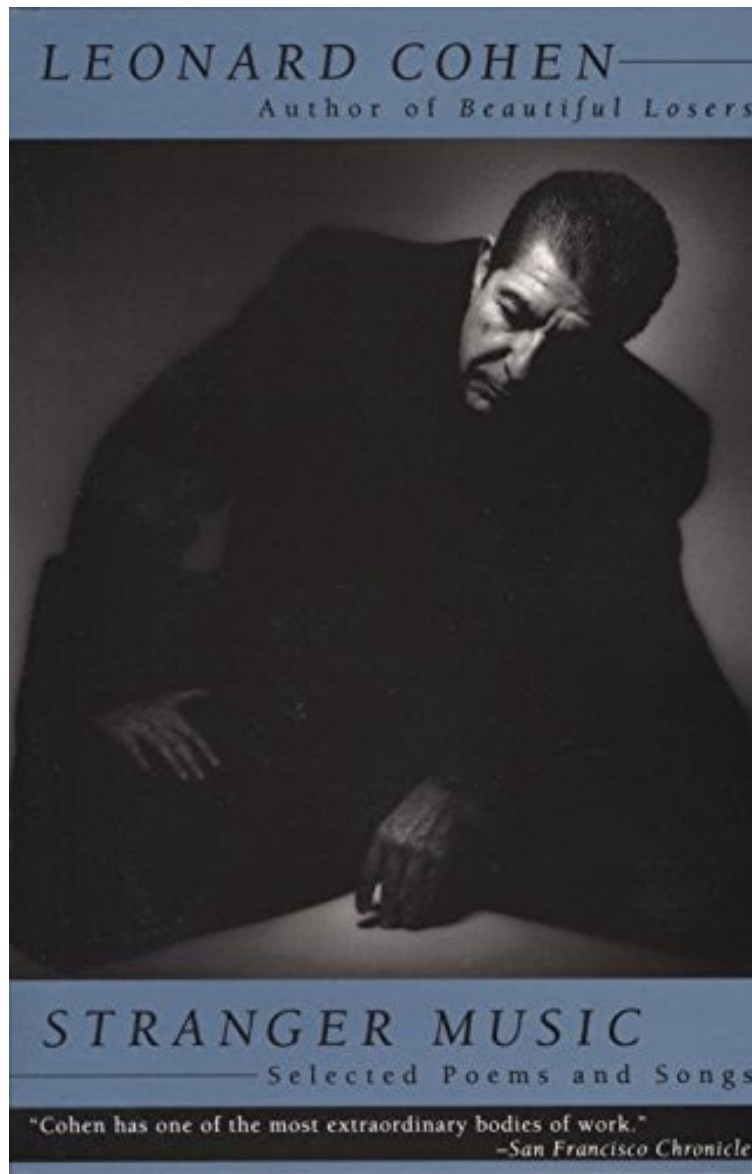


(Library ebook) Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs

Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs

Leonard Cohen

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#264477 in Books Leonard Cohen 1994-11-01 1994-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .91 x 5.201, .71 #File Name: 0679755411432 pages Stranger Music Selected Poems and Songs | File size: 70.Mb

Leonard Cohen : Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Need to search for items better next time By Gary Hamrick Jr. Received the hardback when I was trying to find the paperback version. Still made a great gift though for a friend who was in the hospital at the time. I've bought and lost two copies of this book now myself now but oh well. Having

discovered his work long ago in high school, I didn't stumble across this book till shortly after my college graduation. I'm glad I did. Anyone looking to explore L. Cohen's work though cannot go wrong starting with this book. It covers the man's best known material and dozens of lesser known works as well. There is a variety of subject matters, tones, and even moods covered in Leonard Cohen's work. I would dare say there is probably something here for everyone. Really good way to expand one's knowledge of what "poetry" and "spoken word" is capable of being (and should be) for the reader, the writer, and the speaker. 41 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Collection Perfect 1st Cohen Book to Buy By Carey - One of my top gift items: Turn people on to this book. It is a terrific, full anthology that includes much out-of-print material. The poetry is stylistically wide in scope (from how-did-he-do that perfect to sparse, intense, free-verse); it has unique, emotionally-driven language choices, rhythm and content. Its tenor is lugubrious, and its subject matter tends toward sex and religion. This, as opposed to his individual books of poetry: The individual books are typically short and some are wonderful -- each is very different, thus liked by different tastes. If you don't own any Cohen books, buy this first -- it's got great poems (plus clips of prose, as from "Beautiful Losers"). The chapters are laid out by book and album title (lyrics are here, too); therefore, if/when you want another book after, you will know which one. One thing I don't like about it is the change in poem titles from their originals. This book ends when Cohen is in his 50's, at least in the previously unpublished poems at the end -- so, before the monastery part of his life, though religion is well part of him (he is Orthodox Jewish and views his Buddhism as compatible with his Judaism). I'm not much a fan of his post-monastery work, and if I have one regret it's that I discovered Leonard Cohen within the past ten years, and never got to see him live. Know, too, that Cohen was a published poet -- well-known in Canada -- before he recorded music. He began to play guitar while reading poetry -- it went over well! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Leonard Cohen By Kestrel I had a high school friend call me in my 30s. Hadn't been in touch for years. She said, plaintively, "Hi, I just had to talk to someone who knew who Leonard Cohen was." : Maybe they are easier to find now. That was in the 1980s. He's a remarkable man and his poems and songs are very dip-in-able, again and again. It is inspiring that he can trust his pen, his paper and his heart/mind to just lay it out there. Appreciatively.

In the decades since he recorded his first album, Leonard Cohen has evolved into an international cult figure -- and one of the most literate, daring, and affecting poet-songwriters in the world. *Stranger Music* presents a magnificent cross-section of Cohen's work -- including the legendary songs "Suzanne," "Sisters of Mercy," "Bird on a Wire," "Famous Blue Raincoat," "I'm Your Man," and "The Future"; selections from such books as *Flowers for Hitler*, *Beautiful Losers*, and *Death of a Lady's Man*, and eleven previously unpublished poems. This volume demonstrates definitively that Cohen is a writer of dazzling intelligence and a force that transcends genres.

From *Publishers Weekly* Cohen is probably best known as the writer of the lyrics for the song "Suzanne," made famous by Judy Collins, but has written a great many other songs, too, as well as poetry and prose poetry not set to music. In reading through this generous selection, one often hears the ghost of musical accompaniment, and sometimes its actual presence is missed. The writing alone, forthright in its rhythms, plain of speech, often rhymed, and almost immediately accessible, seems well suited to the ears of a live audience. So fans of the songs will be in luck, here; but readers who prefer slow subtleties, or a kind of poetry that gradually expands in meaning on rereading, or ambitious craft, won't find it in a piece like "For Anne," which begins "With Annie gone, / Whose eyes to compare / With the morning sun?" Cohen's writing is oral in flavor, and asks us to "read" it mainly by hearing it. This works to the disadvantage of a book, where words stay put and aren't sung. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* To appreciate these poems, we must suspend any notions of poetry as an intellectual art form and approach this work as one would a rack of greeting cards. Rhyme abounds, frankly showing Cohen at his best because it holds his didactic nature in check. Although there are few surprises, such as the wonderful early poem "Beneath My Hands," the songs from Cohen's first album, written over 30 years ago, are still his finest displays of outrageous yet stunning imagery. The presence of woman as lover, prostitute, or slave, celebrated in these early songs, continues into his latest work, making over 400 pages seem remarkably flimsy. That these women never seem to exist as individuals will possibly offend readers with a feminist bent. Yet despite almost pornographic descriptions, this Jewish poet still will not write out G-d's name. The Buddhist element in his 1984 poetry collection, *Book of Mercy*, is now scarcely evident. Despite its flaws, this book is recommended for popular collections. - Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Cohen is known best as a songwriter -- everyone's heard "Suzanne" -- and a performer, but he is also a poet with eight collections to his credit. This fine volume brings together a great number of Cohen's striking poems and memorable song lyrics from 1956 to the present, including lyrics from his newest album, *The Future*, which is one his most powerful and exciting releases. Reading Cohen is just as pleasurable as listening to him, especially since his writing has an aural energy. Cohen is direct and precise, a no-fuss-no-muss sort of poet who gets the maximum meaning out of homey words and an invigorating jolt out of clashing images. By turns caustic and charming, Cohen is often caught between the magnetic poles of love and art, claiming in an early poem, "The reason I write/is to make something/as beautiful as you are."

He's too experienced to be truly romantic, but he still longs for innocence and purity and frequently writes about faith and redemption. Politics creep in when Cohen muses over class differences and war, but he most often focuses on the subtle palette of emotions from loneliness to passion, bitter humor to serenity. Donna Seaman