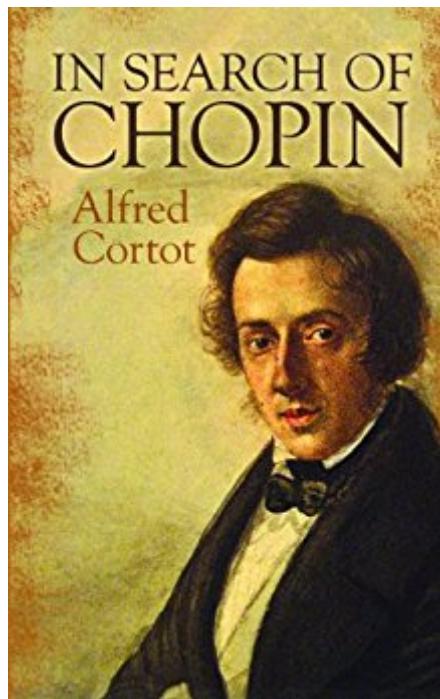


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In Search Of Chopin (Dover Books On Music)



Synopsis

"Altogether, a sensitive and tasteful document." — Library Journal A series of themed essays rather than a traditional biography, this profile of the Polish composer and virtuoso pianist is the work of a legendary conductor and performer. Alfred Cortot taught at the Paris Conservatory of Music, co-founded the École Normale de Musique de Paris, and produced printed versions of the complete works of Chopin, Schumann, and Debussy. In these revealing chronicles, Cortot focuses on Chopin's compositions as well as his performances and personal relationships. Beginning with an account of the composer's physical characteristics, the book examines Chopin's role as a teacher; his works, as reflected by his correspondence; his identity as a Polish nationalist and his attitude toward France; and his concert performances. It further explores his friendships with Liszt and Delacroix and his romance with George Sand, as well as the composer's chronic illness and the expression of his tormented, sensitive nature in his music.

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Customer Reviews

Alfred Cortot was an intensely thoughtful man. What I mean by that is he was focused and

obsessive about understanding what he worked on, including the music of Chopin. He used every piece of information he could get his hands on to help him understand Chopin, to help him understand the music. Here he writes his most interesting findings, in a personal style that is engaging and readable.

I'm still reading this book, but it's so rich that it's like eating a chocolate souffle--I want to put my spoon down and savor it once in a while. I bought this book because I'm writing a short story involving a piece of Chopin's music, and I wanted to find out more about the composer. This book didn't disappoint, and it's filled with little-known facts and bits of correspondence from Chopin's far-too-short life. I find myself listening to his compositions with a new sense of wonder and appreciation, thanks to Cortot's labor of love. Anyone who enjoys Chopin or music in general should find this book fascinating and enlightening.

Excellent look at some of the private moments in this great artist and composer!

This book is an outstanding work. Alfred Cortot bring new lights on Chopin's inner life and his masterworks. Buy it!

Quite informative. Any lover of Chopin and his times will love this book!

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