

Darren Henley

MORE FAMOUS COMPOSERS

Read by **Marin Alsop**

Marin Alsop presents six of the most important composers in Western music. Their music and their lives were very different: **Handel** was gruff but wrote the Hallelujah Chorus; **Haydn** was cheerful, **Mendelssohn** was a remarkable talent, **Chopin** was devoted to the piano, **Rachmaninov** was deeply Russian and **John Williams** is the most successful film composer of our time with Harry Potter, Jaws and Star Wars among his works.

Though they lived at very different times, they have all known what it was like to sit in a silent room with a pile of blank manuscript paper in front of them and compose symphonies, concertos and big choral works as well as songs and sonatas. As we hum their tunes and thrill to their sounds, it can only seem something of a miracle.

Who better to tell their stories than the award-winning conductor **Marin Alsop** who likes nothing better than to stand in front of a large symphony orchestra, her baton raised – and bring their music to life!

This is the second volume of **Darren Henley**'s engaging composer portraits for younger listeners: **Famous Composers** (Bach, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Dvorak, Mozart, and Shostakovich) won the 2006 Audie Award for Best Original work.

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