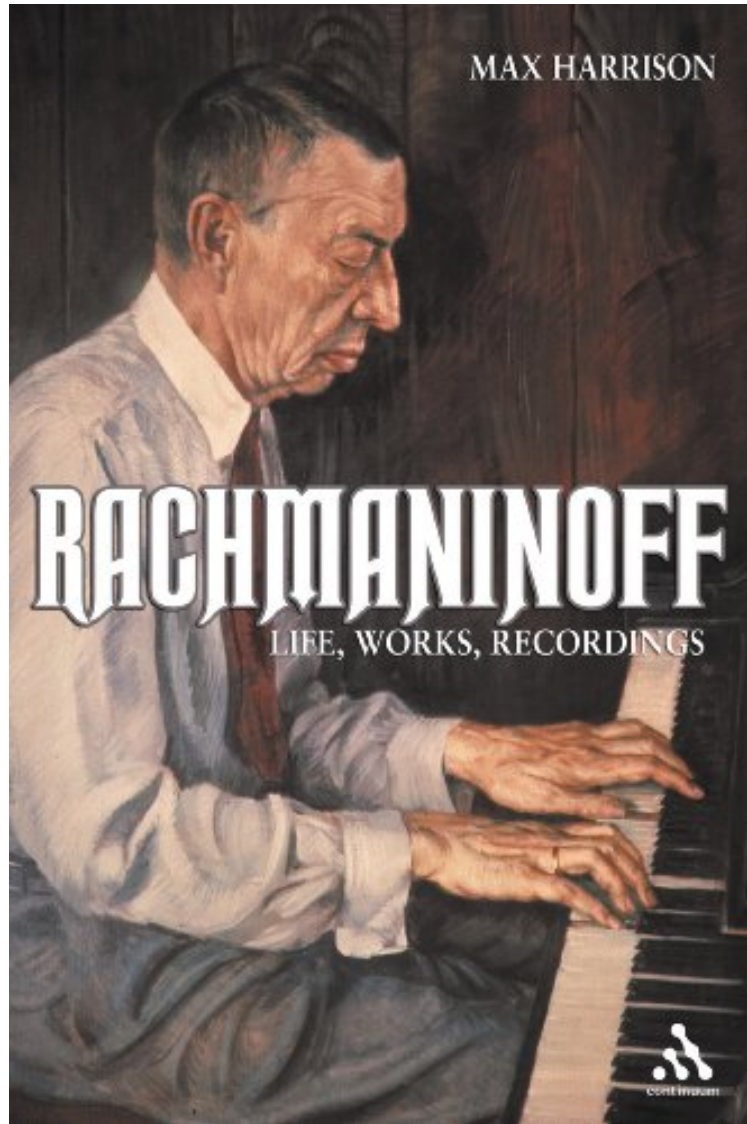


(Mobile book) Rachmaninoff: Life, Works, Recordings

## Rachmaninoff: Life, Works, Recordings

*Max Harrison*

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**Max Harrison : Rachmaninoff: Life, Works, Recordings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rachmaninoff: Life, Works, Recordings:

37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Rachmaninoff RevisitedBy Karl F. MillerHarrison's book is brilliant. Since my first exposure to Rachmaninoff's music, I have been a collector of recordings of his music, the scores, and the composer's own recordings. Having read just about everything written about the composer, including the biographies written by Bertenson and Leyda, Bazhanov, Haylock, Lyle, Martyn et al, I came away from

Harrison's book with a fresh image of the composer. It was one of those books that one reads looking forward to each page and almost dreading that the book, as did the composer's life, would end too soon. Harrison clearly knows the music and all of the recordings. While he obviously places great value in the music, he is not unconditional in his appreciation. He provides a highly informed contemporary critical perspective and places the music within the context of the composer's life. It is the sort of writing that can be appreciated by an informed musician and musicologist, while also being understood and valued by the informed listener. As I read the book I found myself returning to the Rachmaninoff operas, works which I had not really valued as much until reading Harrison's discussions. I came away from my reading with a renewed appreciation for the music and recordings of this man who gave us all so much with his creative expression. 21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. One of the best Rachmaninoff books ever written. By Louie Bourland Over the last century, much has been written on the great Russian composer/pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff. However, if there is one book that encompasses mass detail of the life and work of Rachmaninoff, it would have to be "Rachmaninoff: Life, Works, Recordings" written by Max Harrison. Harrison's massive research in writing this book definitely pays off as it includes detailed annotations of Rachmaninoff's music works as well as his personal life and career as a recording artist. When it comes to the latter topic, this book may be the only one that goes greatly in depth to the making of Rachmaninoff's recordings. If you own the Rachmaninoff "Complete Recordings" box set, this book goes hand in hand with the CD set and shines greater light on what's being heard. In addition to the lengthy and informative essay, the book also includes several musical examples as well as a complete list of the composer's works and a discography of his complete recordings (which lists both the issued and rejected takes alongside the years and places of recording as well as what type of recording it is - piano roll, acoustical or electrical). As mentioned above, this is an essential book on Rachmaninoff. This book pretty much has it all when it comes to all the key areas of his life and career as a composer, a recording artist and an individual. This is definitely a book that no Rachmaninoff fan should be without. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A contemporary musicologist's take on Rachmaninoff's works By John R. Blackburn Jr. Max Harrison's expertise as a top-notch musicologist is used to full advantage in this masterfully-researched and written biography of Rachmaninoff. Like other reviewers, I found Harrison's very detailed assessments of each of Rachmaninoff's published works to be incredibly informative. Take, for example, his view that Rachmaninoff was, despite popular wisdom to the contrary, an excellent composer of large-scale symphonies. That the shoddy treatment given his first symphony reflected far more the narrow-mindedness and incompetence of the conductor, orchestra, and critics than any real shortcomings in this grand and beautiful work by a young and very talented composer.

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) is now widely regarded as one of the greatest 20th-century composers and pianists. In this illuminating and accessible biography, Max Harrison covers the span of Rachmaninoff's life, taking in his career as composer, pianist and conductor, offering full analyses of his scores and a uniquely detailed treatment of his 1919-1942 recordings. A fascinating account of the man, his life and work, this book sheds much new light on its subject and the ways that Rachmaninoff was viewed during his own time and beyond.

'This new study of Rachmaninoff by Max Harrison betokens a lifetime's study of this great composer and pianist, and is extended beyond the customary life and works framework to embrace Rachmaninoff's extensive recorded legacy, which, as time goes by, should become an essential part of any discussions of the life and works of those composers who have made recordings of their own music.