



# Beethoven Essays

*Maynard Solomon*

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## Beethoven Essays Maynard Solomon

Maynard Solomon is the author of a classic biography of Beethoven which has become a standard work throughout the world, having been translated into seven languages. In *Beethoven Essays*, he continues his exploration of Beethoven's inner life, visionary outlook, and creativity, in a series of profound studies of this colossal figure of our civilization.

Solomon deftly fuses a variety of investigative approaches, from rigorous historical and ideological studies to imaginative musical and psychoanalytic speculations. Thus, after closely documenting Beethoven's birth and illegitimacy fantasies, his "Family Romance," and his pretense of nobility, Solomon offers extraordinary interpretations of the composer's dreams, deafness, and obsessive relationship to his nephew. And, following his detailed uncovering of a complex network of recurrent patterns in the Ninth Symphony, he considers the narrative and mythic implications of Beethoven's formal design.

Solomon examines the broad patterns of Beethoven's creative evolution and processes of composition, the radical modernism of his music, and his intellectual, religious, and utopian strivings. A separate section on the "Immortal Beloved" includes the fullest biography of Antonia Brentano yet published. Closing the volume is Solomon's translation and annotated edition of Beethoven's *Tagebuch*, the moving, intimate diary that the composer kept during the critical period that culminated in his last style. Here, as throughout *Beethoven Essays*, Solomon offers scholarship that is at the cutting edge of Beethoven research.

In addition to his numerous writings on Beethoven, Maynard Solomon has written on Schubert, Mozart, and Ives. He works extensively in applied psychoanalysis and has also edited a standard work on Marxist aesthetics.

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