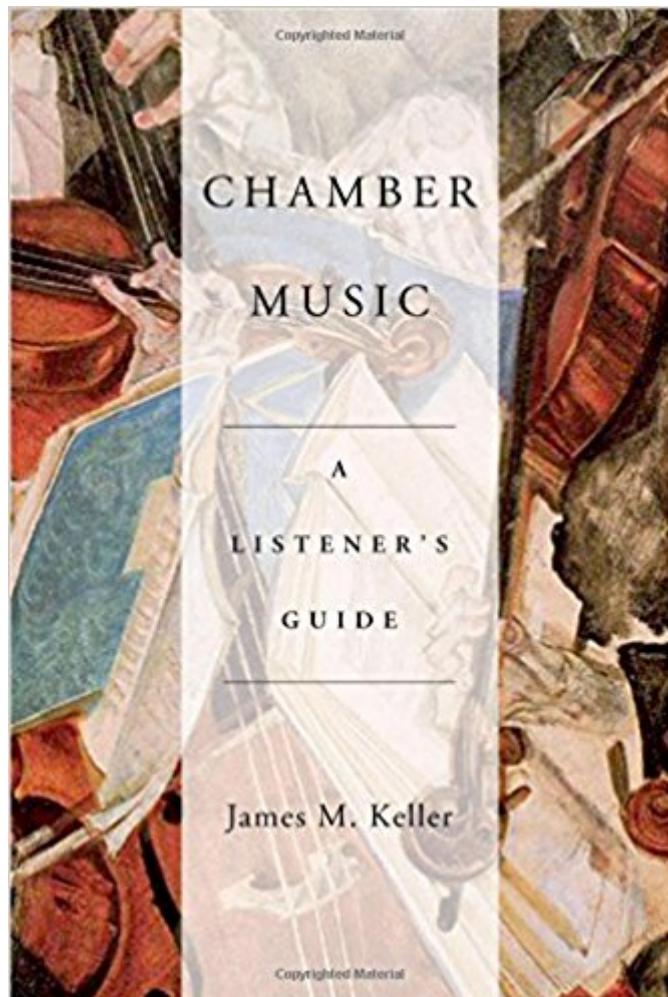


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# Chamber Music: A Listener's Guide



## **Synopsis**

Oxford's highly successful listener's guides--The Symphony, The Concerto, and Choral Masterworks--have been widely praised for their blend of captivating biography, crystal clear musical analysis, and delightful humor. Now James Keller follows these greatly admired volumes with Chamber Music. Approaching the tradition of chamber music with knowledge and passion, Keller here serves as the often-opinionated but always genial guide to 192 essential works by 56 composers, providing illuminating essays on what makes each piece distinctive and admirable. Keller spans the history of this intimate genre of music, from key works of the Baroque through the emotionally stirring "golden age" of the Classical and Romantic composers, to modern masterpieces rich in political, psychological, and sometimes comical overtones. For each piece, from Bach through to contemporary figures like George Crumb and Steve Reich, the author includes an astute musical analysis that casual music lovers can easily appreciate yet that more experienced listeners will find enriching. Keller shares the colorful, often surprising stories behind the compositions while revealing the delights of an art form once described by Goethe as the musical equivalent of "thoughtful people conversing."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The title "A Listener's Guide" is perfect since I am not educated in Chamber Music, but I dearly love it. I have heard James Keller speak in Santa Fe for years and his ability to fix you in the period of a piece and enhance the experience of listening is what brought my husband and I back time and

time again. His impeccable history and even sense of humor in describing the works help make the composers and music real, and break down an elitist attitude. After all, it's all about pure enjoyment of this music. We will give this as gifts to many of our music loving friends.

Useful, well-written introductions to the compositions chosen for inclusion.

Excellent scholarship, very well written, accessible and enjoyable. Cudos to James Keller for what is sure to become a seminal work on Chamber Music.

Good, but not comparable to Michael Sternberg's notes on the symphony, concerto, or choral music.

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