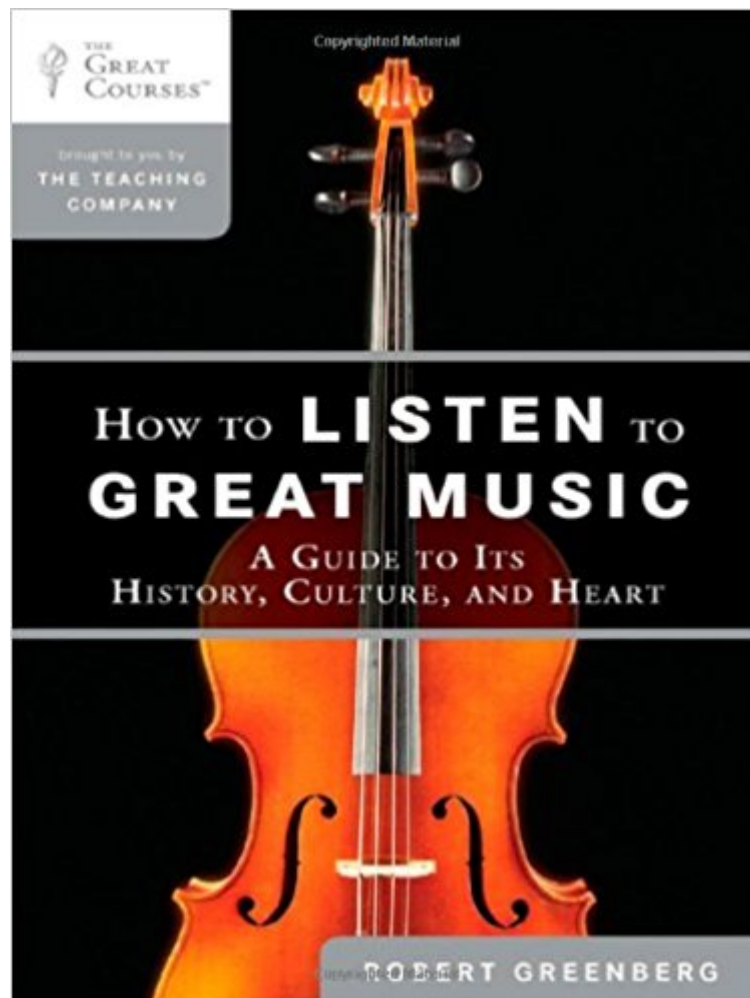




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How To Listen To Great Music: A Guide To Its History, Culture, And Heart (Great Courses)



Synopsis

From one of the most trusted names in continuing education—[the knowledge you need to unlock "the most abstract and sublime of all the arts."](#) Whether you're listening in a concert hall or on your iPod, concert music has the power to move you. The right knowledge can deepen the ability of this music to edify, enlighten, and stir the soul. In *How to Listen to Great Music*, Professor Robert Greenberg, a composer and music historian, presents a comprehensive, accessible guide to how music has mirrored Western history, that will transform the experience of listening for novice and long-time listeners alike. You will learn how to listen for key elements in different genres of music - from madrigals to minuets and from sonatas to symphonies-along with the enthralling history of great music from ancient Greece to the 20th century. You'll get answers to such questions as Why was Beethoven so important? How did the Enlightenment change music? And what's so great about opera anyway? *How to Listen to Great Music* will let you finally hear what you've been missing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Greenberg is an American [composer](#), [musician](#), and [musicologist](#). He has composed more than 50 works for a variety of instruments and voices, and has recorded a number of lecture series on [music history](#) [and](#) [music appreciation](#) [for](#) [The Great Courses](#). He is the author of *How to Listen to Great Music: A Guide to Its History, Culture, and Heart*.

Greenberg has penned a great book here, however, the Kindle edition contains an index with neither page numbers nor active links. It is essentially an alphabetized list at the end of the book. Want to look up where a term appears in the text? You'll have to thumb through the entire book. Significant flaw when you're learning.

Robert Greenberg is a GREAT communicator and he communicates his love and knowledge of classical music (or concert music - a term he prefers for reasons you will learn if you read this wonderful book). I have an extensive background in this field, but I also learned a thing or two which has increased my own love for this amazing art form, which far too few people "get" or appreciate, but you will "get" and "appreciate" this neglected domain of art by reading this book.

Even if you have studied the history of concert music, the book is still very entertaining and enjoyable. I think it is a good basic course for someone who is listening to concert music but does not have a background in music and music history. Robert Greenberg writes with clarity and vigor. The book is not in the least bit dry or tedious. I bought the book last May because I saw that a person I know to have an extensive background in music had purchased it and reviewed it favorably. I was curious. I think the book is very well written and should enhance your experience of concert music whether you are a novice or have been listening for many years.

Recently bought Greenberg's TLC 30 Greatest Orchestral Works course which we are going through now. Bought this book to supplant the course. Actually would recommend reading this excellent book prior to taking a Greenberg course. Greenberg is knowledgeable, entertaining and witty. If you have any interest in learning about the history and composition of classical music, I highly recommend this book.

Great to go with audio lecture that I got it from Audible for only \$7.50. So for under twenty dollars I have access to a world class educational course on music. Very thrilled, plus I find Greenberg's writing to be very accessible and a bit humorous.

Well written and complete. A great primer for the curious. Gain a deeper understanding into the world of Western Classical Music without the necessity of having a background in music. Highly recommended.

I'm only part way through the book, but find this to be very readable instruction. The references to specific compositions that illustrate the author's points are very helpful. I use iTunes to find and listen to samples of the compositions after I've read the text with the Kindle app on my computer or iPad. I've already purchased and downloaded several complete pieces that I particularly liked.

An excellent concise overview of western art music.

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