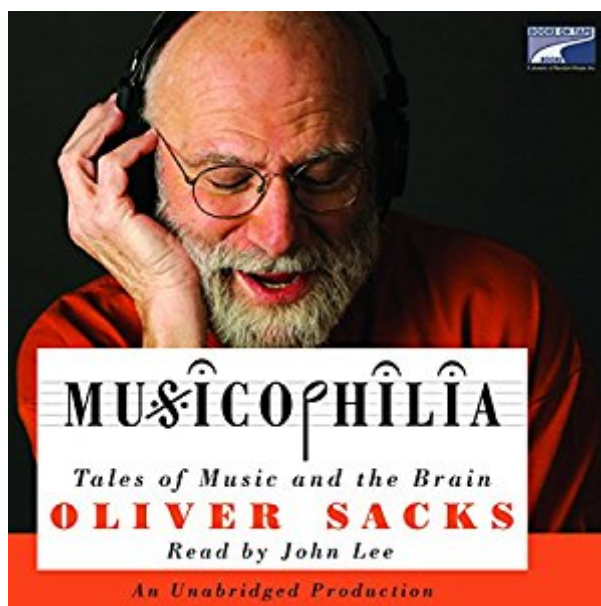


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Musicophilia: Tales Of Music And The Brain



Synopsis

An illuminating book about the power of music, from the bestselling author of "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat". Oliver Sacks has been hailed by the "New York Times" as 'one of the great clinical writers of the twentieth century'. In this eagerly awaited new book, the subject of his uniquely literate scrutiny is music: our relationship with it, our facility for it, and what this most universal of passions says about us. In chapters examining savants and synaesthetics, depressives and musical dreamers, Sacks succeeds not only in articulating the musical experience but in locating it in the human brain. He shows that music is not simply about sound, but also movement, visualization, and silence. He follows the experiences of patients suddenly drawn to or suddenly divorced from music. And in so doing he shows, as only he can, both the extraordinary spectrum of human expression and the capacity of music to heal. Wise, compassionate and compellingly readable, "Musicophilia" promises, like all the best writing, to alter our conception of who we are and how we function, to lend a fascinating insight into the mysteries of the mind, and to show us what it is to be human. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Entertainment > Music #55 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition &

Performance > Appreciation

Customer Reviews

Great somewhat clinical read. I purchased several books from Oliver Sacks, this was the first I read. Well written, exposing interesting cases about a variety effects of music (both good and bad) can have on the human brain. Look forward to reading more from this doctor.

... I was a little disappointed. 4.5 stars I enjoy every book by Dr. Sacks. He's always insightful, empathetic, and a brilliant storyteller. All the things you like about Dr. Sacks' writing you will find in full in this book. I really like this book. Once again, Dr. Sacks makes the stories of his patients come alive and demonstrate brilliantly the relationship between our mental states and abilities and the physiological functioning of the brain. Bravo. If you like Sacks, you will like this book (very much I would say.) But ... my but: With a title like Musicophilia ("the love of music") I was expecting much more about WHY we humans ENJOY music so much. Why are we the musical ape? This is only touched on tangentially in this book. I felt a bit of false advertising in the title. I've read Anthony Storr's book "Music and the Mind" and "Music, The Brain, And Ecstasy: How Music Captures Our Imagination" by Robert Jourdain (both are good.) With Dr. Sacks' title (and maybe it was chosen by his publisher, this often happens) I expected something more in that vein: the enjoyment of music. (And so, I still await further explorations ...) All in all a great book. Enjoy.

Oliver Sacks is truly one of the greats. This book can interest psychologists (me) and musical enthusiasts (also me, but who isn't) and just regular people who are interested in learning about some of the fascinating parts of the human experience and mind.

Love this book. I bought this for my nephew, since he is now getting into music. It's a great story and interesting.

Fantastic work by Oliver Sacks as he illustrates the connection between music and the human mind. An eye opener into the world of music therapy, and a thoughtful work expressing the benefits of music with respect to neurology and neurological disease. Each chapter administers a great impact with even greater emotion escorted alongside.

As a retired professional musician (orchestra, professorship, teacher of youngsters, and a jazzier too), I certainly wish I had read this book earlier! Very enlightening. Sacks as usual employs slightly abnormal or above-normal patients to introduce important issues about musical perception, learning, memory, memorization and practice, and more. I have learned so much here! A great gift to anyone in the music business. Might be a bit difficult for a junior reader.

I bought this as a gift for a music loving friend for her bachelorette party. She was surprised and excited as she had been wanting to read it for a while! She gave it rave reviews and I'm actually

thinking of seeing if I can borrow it myself as it sounds like a good read.

I purchased this book as a gift and it arrived in plenty of time. The person who I bought it for has been playing the piano for the last 60 years. She loves the book and has found it to be fascinating. She'd highly recommend it to any music lover.

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