

The new edition of *The Rough Guide to Classical Music* is the fourth in just over ten years – a measure of just how successfully this title has established itself as a leader in what is a highly competitive field. According to data from Nielsen BookScan, **The Rough Guide is the UK's best-selling guide to classical music on CD.**

Did you know? Johann Sebastian Bach spend a month in jail after “impertinently” requesting to leave the employment of the Duke of Weimar?

Described by the *BBC Music Magazine* as the “perfect classical music primer”, the book was conceived – in true Rough Guides fashion – to provide the non-specialist reader with a view of the subject that was informative, stimulating and occasionally contentious. Its unique selling point is the way it combines lively accounts of over 200 composers’ lives with discussions of their key works and carefully selected CD recommendations.

Did you know? The womanizing of Baroque composer Alessandro Stradella led to his assassination at the hands of a hired killer in Genoa in 1678.

The *Rough Guide* has also been praised for its mix of well-known composers (such as Bach, Beethoven and Mozart) with more obscure, but interesting, figures (like Antoine Brumel and Barbara Strozzi), and for the way it takes contemporary music seriously. Current leading lights Thomas Adès and Kaija Saariaho are among the 30 featured composers born after 1925.

Did you know? Avant-garde composer Elisabeth Lutyens made extra money by writing the music for cult horror movies such as *Dr Terror's House of Horrors* and *The Skull*

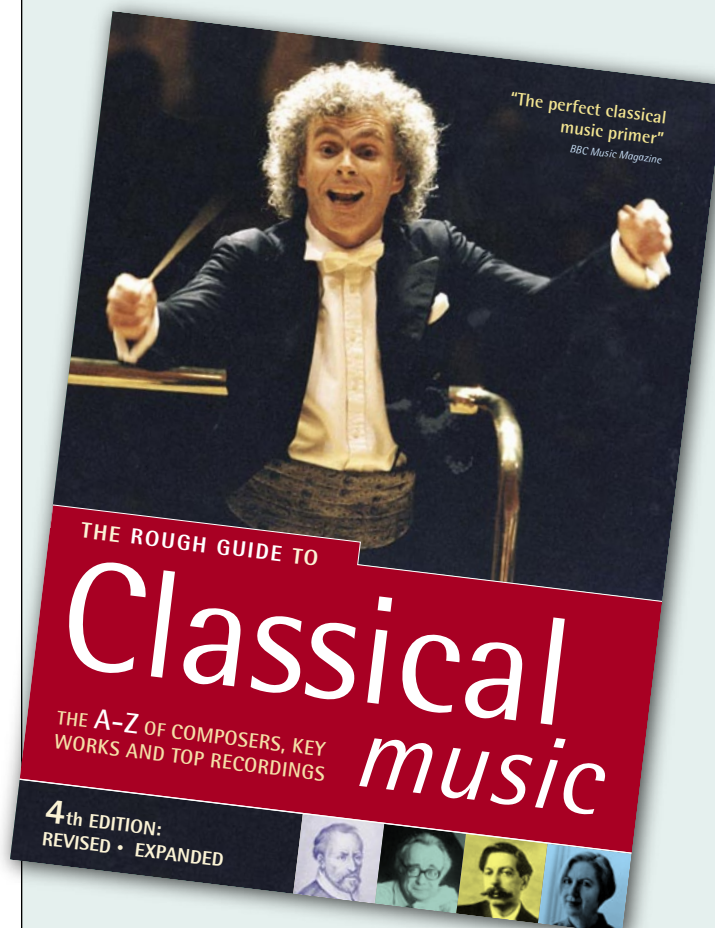
For this new edition we have added a number of new composer entries – **Michael Praetorius, William Lawes, Giuseppe Tartini, Arnold Bax, Maurice Duruflé, Mauricio Kagel, Tristan Murail and Oliver Knussen** – and build on the success of the essay-boxes that we introduced in the last edition. New boxes cover such topics as notation, electronic music, the madrigal, and why Stradivarius made such great violins.

As always, the CD recommendations have been thoroughly overhauled in the light of four years’ worth of new releases and deletions, thus making the book as up-to-date as possible. All of which, we hope, will continue to make *The Rough Guide to Classical Music* what Mark Pappenheim, writing in the *BBC Music Magazine*, called “a pleasure to read”.

Praise for previous editions:

“The perfect classical music primer”
BBC music magazine

“A welcome beacon for those adrift among the aisles of classical CDs”
Billboard



The Rough Guide to Classical Music

4th Edition

Joe Staines & Duncan Clark (editors)

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