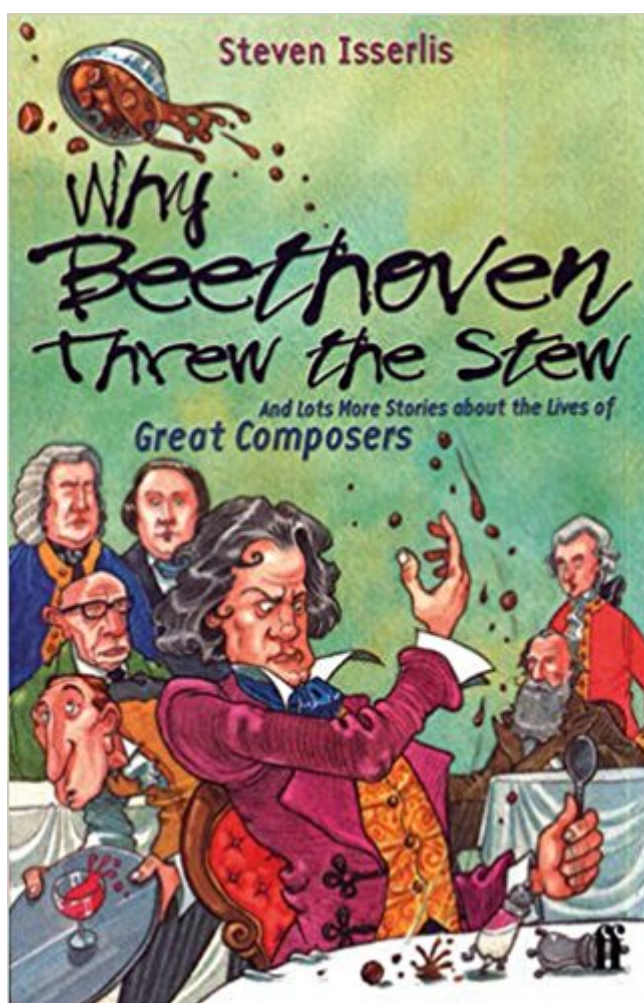


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# Why Beethoven Threw The Stew (And Lots More Stories About The Lives Of Great Composers)



## Synopsis

In *Why Beethoven Threw the Stew*, renowned cellist Steven Isserlis sets out to pass on to children a wonderful gift given to him by his own cello teacher - the chance to people his own world with the great composers by getting to know them as friends. Witty and informative at the same time, Isserlis introduces us to six of his favorite composers: the sublime genius Bach, the quicksilver Mozart, Beethoven with his gruff humor, the shy Schumann, the prickly Brahms and that extraordinary split personality, Stravinsky. Isserlis brings the composers alive in an irresistible manner that can't fail to catch the attention of any child whose ear has been caught by any of the music described, or anyone entering the world of classical music for the first time. The lively black and white line illustrations provide a perfect accompaniment to the text, and make this book attractive and accessible for children to enjoy on their own or share with an adult.

## Book Information

Series: And Lots More Stories about the Lives of Great Composers

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Age Range: 7 - 8 years

Grade Level: 2 - 3

## Customer Reviews

Why Beethoven Threw the Stew  
Why did Bach's son call him 'The Old Wig'?  
What part did Stravinsky's parrot play at dinner parties?  
How did Mozart keep his pigtails styled?  
What did Schumann invent to make his fingers stronger?  
And why did Beethoven throw his stew?  
This book is a unique introduction for children to the world of classical composers and their music. Famous cellist Steven Isserlis brings six of his favorite composers to life in an irresistible manner, painting hilarious

biographical portraits of each of them and describing their music in lively detail. Packed with facts, dates, anecdotes and illustrations, *Why Beethoven Threw the Stew* is an attractive and accessible read for children (and their parents!).

Steven Isserlis was born at a fairly early age. His whole family was musical-- his father plays the violin, his mother played the piano, and his two sisters play the violin and viola-- so he took up the cello because he didn't want to get left out. He soon decided that playing the cello was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life (partly because it meant that he wouldn't have to get up too early in the morning to get to work). These days, he travels all over the world, playing concerts to whoever wants to listen (and to a few who don't too) and making recordings. He studied in England, Scotland and America; his main teacher was a wonderfully eccentric lady called Jane Cowan who convinced him that he had to become friends with the composers whose music he played. In 1998, he was awarded a CBE, for 'services to music' (though privately, he suspects it was because of his looks); and in 2000, the city of Zwickau (birthplace of the composer Robert Schumann, to whom a chapter of this book is devoted) bestowed the Schumann Prize 2000 upon his curly head. Steven lives in London, with Pauline (who tries to keep him in order), his son Gabriel (who manages to keep him in disorder), lots of cellos and a piano. He has a few hobbies, but what he likes best (apart from listening to music and reading books, perhaps) is to eat lots of food.

Just started a new teaching job teaching general music. This book is great for gathering fun facts to make music appealing and pertinent to young people. It would be fun to read out loud to older grades (perhaps 3rd and up) as well. A fun read for anyone interested in composers.

This is an entertaining book, chock full of useful knowledge and information, written by a musician who is thoroughly skilled as a cellist and classical/romantic era performer. He really brings the personality and interpersonal dynamics of the composers and their contemporaries into symbiotic dynamism--I love the story about Brahms coming to live in the Schumann's home and carrying on like a teenage acrobat, leaping from bannister to bannister. I recommend this book for elementary school children through adults, it is easy to read and has discrete sections laid out with good continuity as he lays out the composers/performers in a linear form.

This book reveals small details of the composers' lives that you might not find in serious biographies. Their stories are presented in a very personal way, as if you were talking to someone

who knew them well...and in fact, you are. Steven Isserlis is a world-renowned concert pianist. Very well-written book that just races along as he acquaints you with the composers.

I am a professional adult musician and still learned a lot by reading Steven Isserlis' book! He has a way to make you close to the composer. You feel that you really know what kind of person the composer was after you read the chapter about him. And Isserlis is VERY witty from his first line of About the Author: "I was born at an early age"(!), you know that this is going to be fun to read. I bought a few copies that I am passing among my students (and their parents). I highly recommend it to anyone, really. His second book is on another group of composers, written in the same style: true and checked facts about the composers, in a very entertaining style!

This is a fabulous book for young adolescents and adults. It's written in a very funny manner that keeps you wanting more. My favorite aspect is at the end of each chapter there's a section on what pieces of music to start with and what to listen for in each piece. This is a gem of a book for novices and young musicians.

I really love this book, It is not only for kids, it is an easy to read compilation of anecdotes of great musicians. I could not stop reading, it is really interesting!! very recommendable for everybody, especially if you like music!

Interesting information about composers.

This book is great for kids and music teachers. It came on time with no issues.

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