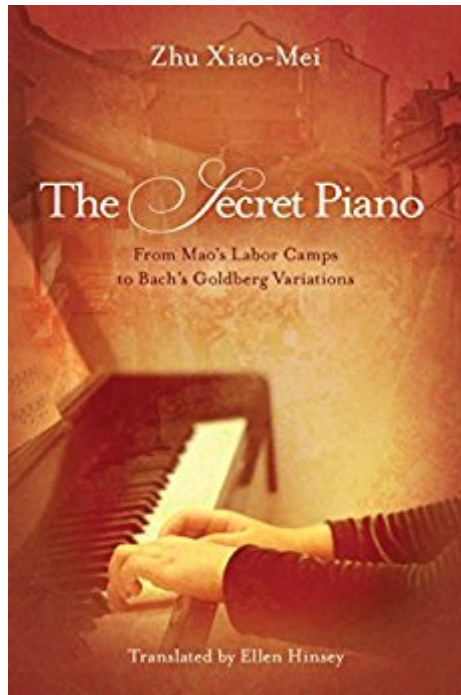


The book was found

# The Secret Piano: From Mao's Labor Camps To Bach's Goldberg Variations



## Synopsis

Zhu Xiao-Mei was born to middle-class parents in post-war China, and her musical proficiency became clear at an early age. Taught to play the piano by her mother, she developed quickly into a prodigy, immersing herself in the work of classical masters like Bach and Brahms. She was just ten years old when she began a rigorous course of study at the Beijing Conservatory, laying the groundwork for what was sure to be an extraordinary career. But in 1966, when Xiao-Mei was seventeen, the Cultural Revolution began, and life as she knew it changed forever. One by one, her family members were scattered, sentenced to prison or labor camps. By 1969, the art schools had closed, and Xiao-Mei was on her way to a work camp in Mongolia, where she would spend the next five years. Life in the camp was nearly unbearable, thanks to horrific living conditions and intensive brainwashing campaigns. Yet through it all Xiao-Mei clung to her passion for music and her sense of humor. And when the Revolution ended, it was the piano that helped her to heal. Heartbreaking and heartwarming, *The Secret Piano* is the incredible true story of one woman's survival in the face of unbelievable odds—and in pursuit of a powerful dream.

## Book Information

File Size: 1309 KB

Print Length: 331 pages

Publisher: Crossing (March 6, 2012)

Publication Date: March 6, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0076PGFYW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #38,073 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian #12 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Chinese #12 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese

## Customer Reviews

When one first thinks of pianist Zhu Xiao-Mei, those familiar with her works immediately jump to her exceptional interpretations and performances of J.S. Bach and the Goldberg Variations. Finding her autobiography, *The Secret Piano: From Mao's Labor Camps to Bach's Goldberg Variations*, was a pleasant surprise, yet autobiographies like this can sometimes be a disappointment to the reader. Happily this was not the case, as the author has presented her life in an interesting and fascinating chronological format, one that expresses the emotions that she felt along the way. Born in Shanghai into a creative middle-class family during those turbulent years following WW-II, her family moved to Beijing when she was very young. Her first encounter with the instrument that was to shape her life is movingly remembered in her own words: "I didn't know what it was, a piano. I was barely three years old, and I had never seen anything like it. I was fascinated. I wondered where it had come from, this object that spoke when you touched it. Strangely, my mother never played the piano. But every morning, she dusted it: her first act of housework. 'Such dust! In Shanghai, there wasn't so much dust. Why did you bring me here?' she would add, turning towards my father." And that curiosity sets the pace for this book in which she takes us on a journey in which we witness first hand a side that is usually veiled to most Westerners.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Secret Piano: From Mao's Labor Camps to Bach's Goldberg Variations  
Bach's Goldberg Variations  
Bach's Goldberg Variations (Once Upon a Masterpiece)  
For Democracy, Workers, and God: Labor Song-Poems and Labor Protest, 1865-95 (Working Class in American History)  
Labor Economics: Introduction to Classic and the New Labor Economics  
What's So Great About Bach?: A Biography of Johann Sebastian Bach  
Just for Kids! Shulman - Theme and Variations for Viola & Piano  
Chopsticks Variations: Piano Solo - Advanced Beginner to Beginning  
Advanced Complete Sonatas and Variations for Cello and Piano (Dover Chamber Music Scores)  
Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor and the Other Bach Transcriptions for Solo Piano (Dover Music for Piano)  
Bertrand Goldberg: Architecture of Invention (Art Institute of Chicago)  
Understanding and Teaching American Slavery (The Harvey Goldberg Series)  
Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History (The Harvey Goldberg Series)  
Liberal Fascism (08) by Goldberg, Jonah [Hardcover (2008)]  
Rube Goldberg Inventions 2017 Wall Calendar  
The Art of Rube Goldberg: (A) Inventive (B) Cartoon (C) Genius  
Lightning Fast Piano Scales: A Proven Method to Get Fast Piano Scales in 5 Minutes a Day (Piano Lessons, Piano Exercises)  
Double Agent! Piano Duets: Hal Leonard Student Piano Library Popular Songs Series Intermediate 1 Piano, 4 Hands (Popular Songs, Hal Leonard Student Piano Library)  
Mao: The Unknown Story P. J. Funnybunny Camps Out (Step into Reading)

