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# The Greatest Music Stories Never Told: 100 Tales From Music History To Astonish, Bewilder, And Stupefy (The Greatest Stories Never Told)



## Synopsis

"Full of tasty morsels. A delightful book to arm one for the next dull cocktail party." • "Chicago Tribune Rick Beyer, author of the highly successful History Channel series The Greatest Stories Never Told returns with new historic tales from the world of music — ennobling, entrancing and inevitably surprising stories of soaring genius, tantalizing scandal, nefarious intrigue, and, above all, unbridled passion for music. Perfect for fans of The Mental Floss History of the United States or Bill Bryson's Made in America, Beyer's Greatest Music Stories Never Told is a history like you've never read it before." (The Tennessean)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Greatest Music Stories Never Told is a collection of interesting music stories and the intriguing histories of songs and musicians, both famous and obscure. Each mini-story is two pages long and is accompanied by art or photos pertaining to that topic. There are several ancient music anecdotes, but the rest of the book focuses on stories from the past four hundred years. Do you remember that old radio show that Paul Harvey used to do - "The Rest of the Story?" These tales reminded me strongly of that show. Paul Harvey would tell a story about a mystery protagonist, and then would reveal that person's identity (usually someone famous) at the end of the tale. Not all of the stories in this book follow that format, but enough of them did that I couldn't help but think of his show. I think that anyone with even a moderate interest in music would be entertained by these stories. You don't have to have a familiarity with composers or classical music to appreciate the eclectic and

sometimes strange facts gathered in this book. Here are some of my favorites: The youngest Civil War soldier The story behind the trapeze song The inventor of the saxophone (and how controversial it was) The last castrati (whose singing voice was recorded) Songs and composers inspired by the devil The FBI investigation of "Louie, Louie" The story behind "Smoke on the Water" There were a couple of stories (like the one about the youngest Civil War soldier) in which the musical element was tangential to the main story, but I appreciated their inclusion because they added variety and depth to the book. The Greatest Music Stories Never Told is a lovely little gift book and makes for fun reading.

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