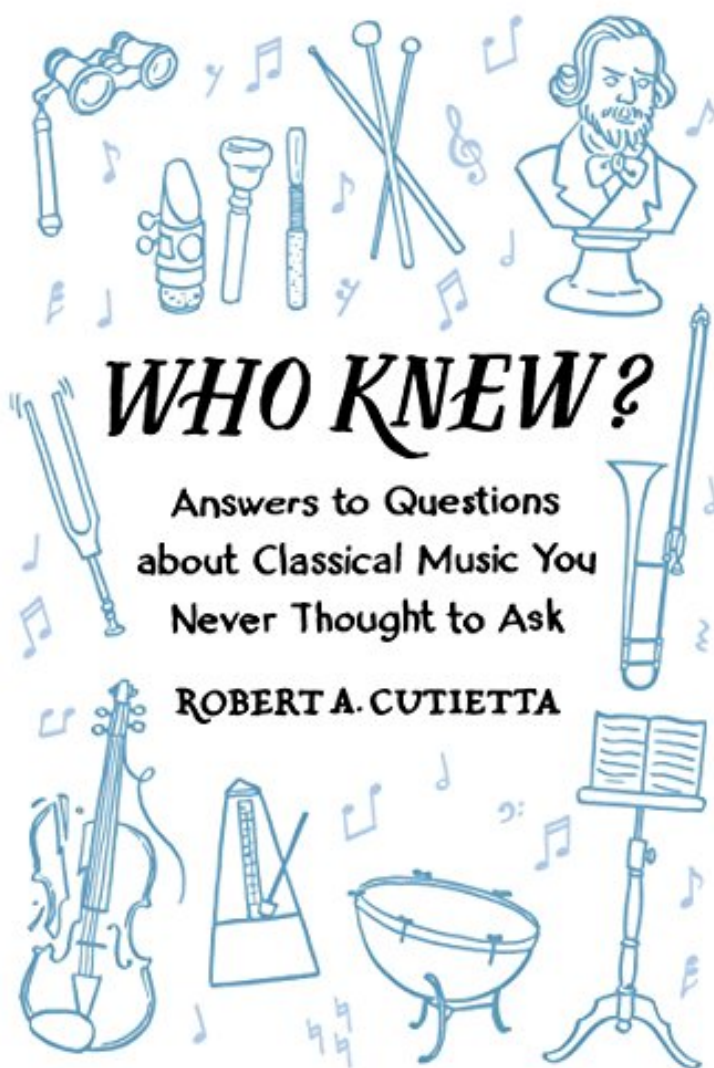


# Who Knew?: Answers to Questions about Classical Music you Never Thought to Ask

Robert A. Cutietta

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**Robert A. Cutietta : Who Knew?: Answers to Questions about Classical Music you Never Thought to Ask** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who Knew?: Answers to Questions about Classical Music you Never Thought to Ask:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a great gift for the classical music lover in your lifeBy MichelleThis is a great gift for the classical music lover in your life. Classical music is so unique and has such interesting etiquette and traditions around it. Rob's take on de-mystifying and sharing this knowledge that curious listeners who have not studied music rigorously may find fascinating. His voice, style and humor are hallmarks of the

tone he sets as an arts educator and leader along with his trademark listening. He clearly has fielded many questions over the years and the style of writing is educational and clear, but not too heavy with technical classical music jargon or with a tone that expects that you should innately know these things. If you've wondered why the players, singers, and musicians do what they do on the stage this may be an excellent read for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This answers questions you didn't think to ask but are fascinating

By J. Renfrow  
There are so many questions with respect to orchestras, classical music, composers, etc. that you either unconsciously wondered about or never thought to think about and this book is marvelous at addressing these issues. It really rounds out your understanding of the music environment works. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential reading

By N. S. Linder  
I have been attending concerts and collecting classical recordings for decades, yet I learned a great deal from this well researched and well written book. Thanks.

Did you ever leave an opera performance wondering why the singers use so much vibrato? Or a symphony, wondering who decided where on stage the orchestra members should sit, or why they tune their instruments to an oboe rather than an electronic tuner? Why is Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture played on the 4th of July? And how does a composer choose what key to compose in? In *Who Knew?: Answers to Questions about Classical Music You Never Thought to Ask*, master music educator Robert A. Cutietta provides lucid answers to these and more than 140 other questions submitted by listeners to his popular weekly radio program. Through its pages, this highly readable guide touches on some of the most curiosity-inducing aspects of the tradition, from why audiences refrain from applauding between movements to how opera singers warm up on the night of a big debut. The responses are drawn from conversations with professional musicians and music educators, with additional contributions by Gail Eichenthal of KUSC, giving a rare glimpse into how musicians think and talk about their work. Lovers of classical music who would like to flesh out their understanding are sure to find a powerful resource in Cutietta's down-to-earth guide, and even seasoned listeners are sure to learn a thing or two. This book will provide hours of enjoyment as readers invariably shake their heads and ask in wonderment, "Who knew!"

"For the past decade, Cutietta has been demystifying classical music for KUSC listeners in Los Angeles. *Who Knew?* captures the very best of his 'Ask the Dean' segment, illuminating the aspects of orchestral music that even its most avid listeners can find perplexing. *Who Knew?* is a lively, engaging, and affectionate dive into the music we love so much." --Deborah Borda, President and C.E.O., Los Angeles Philharmonic

About the Author  
One of the nation's preeminent music educators, Robert A. Cutietta is Dean of the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. Cutietta has written extensively on music education and psychology, and is the author of *Raising Musical Kids: A Guide for Parents* (Oxford University Press, Second Edition 2013), *Encountering the Fundamentals of Music and Spin-offs: The Extra-Musical Advantages of a Musical Education*. "Ask the Dean", Cutietta's weekly segment on KUSC Radio, has been on the air since 2006.