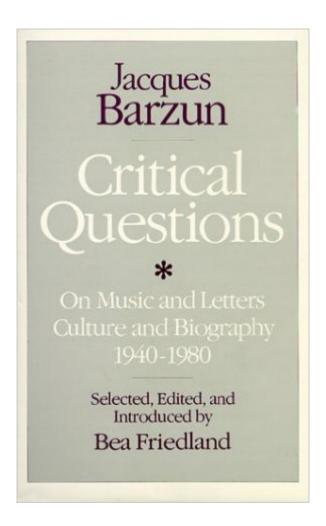
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Critical Questions: On Music And Letters, Culture And Biography, 1940-1980





Synopsis

This collection of writings allows the reader a rare opportunity to see Barzun's lively, engaging, rich, and original mind at work on several strategic areas of cultural inquiry: music and the musical life, esthetics, biography, criticism, and social commentary. Barzun makes use of a variety of contexts as a forum for evidence and opinion, including essays, program notes, letters, and reviews. And he approaches a wide variety of particular and general questions. What is it like to sit in on a recording session with a great orchestra? What is the role of the piano in Western culture? What is art in relation to objective reality and to the perceiving mind? Can one translate music into words? What is cultural history? For anyone unfamiliar with Barzun's work, Critical Questions will serve as a valuable introduction to one of the most important cultural historians of our time. Others will be glad to have these piecesâ "most of them no longer easily availableâ "brought together in a single volume. Uniformly insightful, provocative, and a pleasure to read, they show the consistency of Barzun's thought even as they exhibit diversity.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: University of Chicago Press (July 1, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226038637

ISBN-13: 978-0226038636

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 5.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces

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Best Sellers Rank: #4,026,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Humor &

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