



Shostakovich: A Life

By Laurel E. Fay

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay

For this authoritative post-cold-war biography of Shostakovich's illustrious but turbulent career under Soviet rule, Laurel E. Fay has gone back to primary documents: Shostakovich's many letters, concert programs and reviews, newspaper articles, and diaries of his contemporaries. An indefatigable worker, he wrote his arresting music despite deprivations during the Nazi invasion and constant surveillance under Stalin's regime.

Shostakovich's life is a fascinating example of the paradoxes of living as an artist under totalitarian rule. In August 1942, his Seventh Symphony, written as a protest against fascism, was performed in Nazi-besieged Leningrad by the city's surviving musicians, and was triumphantly broadcast to the German troops, who had been bombarded beforehand to silence them. Alone among his artistic peers, he survived successive Stalinist cultural purges and won the Stalin Prize five times, yet in 1948 he was dismissed from his conservatory teaching positions, and many of his works were banned from performance. He prudently censored himself, in one case putting aside a work based on Jewish folk poems. Under later regimes he balanced a career as a model Soviet, holding government positions and acting as an international ambassador with his unflagging artistic ambitions.

In the years since his death in 1975, many have embraced a view of Shostakovich as a lifelong dissident who encoded anti-Communist messages in his music. This lucid and fascinating biography demonstrates that the reality was much more complex. Laurel Fay's book includes a detailed list of works, a glossary of names, and an extensive bibliography, making it an indispensable resource for future studies of Shostakovich.

 [Download Shostakovich: A Life ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Shostakovich: A Life ...pdf](#)

Shostakovich: A Life

By Laurel E. Fay

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay

For this authoritative post-cold-war biography of Shostakovich's illustrious but turbulent career under Soviet rule, Laurel E. Fay has gone back to primary documents: Shostakovich's many letters, concert programs and reviews, newspaper articles, and diaries of his contemporaries. An indefatigable worker, he wrote his arresting music despite deprivations during the Nazi invasion and constant surveillance under Stalin's regime.

Shostakovich's life is a fascinating example of the paradoxes of living as an artist under totalitarian rule. In August 1942, his Seventh Symphony, written as a protest against fascism, was performed in Nazi-besieged Leningrad by the city's surviving musicians, and was triumphantly broadcast to the German troops, who had been bombarded beforehand to silence them. Alone among his artistic peers, he survived successive Stalinist cultural purges and won the Stalin Prize five times, yet in 1948 he was dismissed from his conservatory teaching positions, and many of his works were banned from performance. He prudently censored himself, in one case putting aside a work based on Jewish folk poems. Under later regimes he balanced a career as a model Soviet, holding government positions and acting as an international ambassador with his unflagging artistic ambitions.

In the years since his death in 1975, many have embraced a view of Shostakovich as a lifelong dissident who encoded anti-Communist messages in his music. This lucid and fascinating biography demonstrates that the reality was much more complex. Laurel Fay's book includes a detailed list of works, a glossary of names, and an extensive bibliography, making it an indispensable resource for future studies of Shostakovich.

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay Bibliography

- Rank: #684371 in Books
- Brand: Laurel E Fay
- Published on: 2005-07-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x 1.40" w x 9.00" l, 1.53 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 488 pages

 [Download Shostakovich: A Life ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Shostakovich: A Life ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fay, an academic specializing in Russian music, notes in her introduction to this careful and detailed study of the Soviet composer's life and work that "there is not a single even remotely reliable resource in Russian, English, or any other language for the basic facts" about him. She has therefore set herself dutifully to sort fact from tendentious politicizing as best she can. Whether from the "right" (a dutiful Soviet official biography) or the "left" (Solomon Volkov's highly suspect *Testament*, which suggested the composer was a closet rebel against state conformism all his life), Dmitry Shostakovich (1906-1975) was certainly the pre-eminent composer who lived his entire creative life under the Soviet regime (Prokofiev escaped to Paris for an extended period). As such, he became, perforce, a cultural icon, despite his occasional fallings from grace with the Kremlin. One of the virtues of Fay's book is her picture of the endless mundane tasks to which Shostakovich was subjected: rote speeches, statements, interviews, appearances at conferences. In many ways his life was that of a senior civil servant, a role he performed with extraordinary conscientiousness. As a personality, however, he remains profoundly elusive. Fay reports that Shostakovich was frequently witty and sardonic, but gives few glimpses of this side of him. More importantly, it is never explained whether his apparent equivocations about deplorable aspects of Soviet artistic policy sprang from cowardice or cynicism. What is certain was that this enormously prolific, hard-working artist left behind a legacy of powerful, often agonizingly somber, work that is even more striking considering the circumstances. Often feeble health, worries about money and personal security under which he wrote. Fay has done a notable job of clearing the brush; a more substantial and penetrating portrait remains to be constructed on that cleared site.

Illustrations not seen by PW. (Nov.)

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The Cold War has ended, but writers on Shostakovich now face its effects on information, as Fay's own published criticism of some Shostakovich-related work has shown. This meticulously documented biography bravely offers a thoughtful, painstaking search for the truth regarding the great, tormented composer's actions and public reaction to his music, but sources themselves often conflict. For example, Fay presents a dozen versions of what happened and why regarding the 1936 withdrawal of the Fourth Symphony, some from the same people at different times. Other facts are equally elusive, and Fay leaves many questions open. A chronological report with a smattering of insights from Fay, this important contribution to Shostakovich scholarship presents the result of many years of study in archives and published accounts. A groundwork for future scholars will appreciate. For academic and large public libraries. *ABonnie Jo Dopp, Univ. of Maryland Lib., College Park*

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

The USSR's foremost composer, Shostakovich (1906-75), combined romanticism and modernism. His preference for programmatic music led him to include elements of folk song along with dissonance in many compositions, and his forays into the twelve-tone idiom produced memorable melodic strains woven into a romantic fabric. Raised in St. Petersburg, he lived there and in Moscow, teaching students, performing, and serving on various national arts councils for most of his life. He supported the Communist regime by composing music with historical programs, but he eventually denounced the most egregious transgressions of the Stalin years. Most important to his reputation, his music was played throughout the West. Fay's well-written but pedantic biography does little to bring out the man Shostakovich. Instead, Fay represents him through his music, especially his operas, songs, and choral symphonies, arguing that it is in the librettos and

poetic texts of Shostakovich that his sadness and dissent are most evident. So far, the music of this prodigious figure has endured, continuing to be played for its aesthetic value, regardless of its politics. *Alan Hirsch*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Syble Mills:

The book Shostakovich: A Life can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave a good thing like a book Shostakovich: A Life? Some of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim that book can give many information for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you can give for each other; you may share all of these. Book Shostakovich: A Life has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by open up and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

John Gravatt:

Precisely why? Because this Shostakovich: A Life is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Michael Emery:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our information for everything. By a book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This e-book Shostakovich: A Life was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like currently, many ways to get book you wanted.

Jessica Harris:

A lot of reserve has printed but it takes a different approach. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the most beneficial book for you, science, witty, novel, or whatever by simply searching from it. It is called of book Shostakovich: A Life. You can include your knowledge by it. Without leaving behind the printed book, it can add your knowledge and make you actually happier to read. It is most essential that, you must aware about reserve. It can bring you from one destination for a other place.

**Download and Read Online Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay
#HE7JM23NIS1**

Read Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay for online ebook

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay books to read online.

Online Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay ebook PDF download

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay Doc

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay MobiPocket

Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay EPub

HE7JM23NIS1: Shostakovich: A Life By Laurel E. Fay