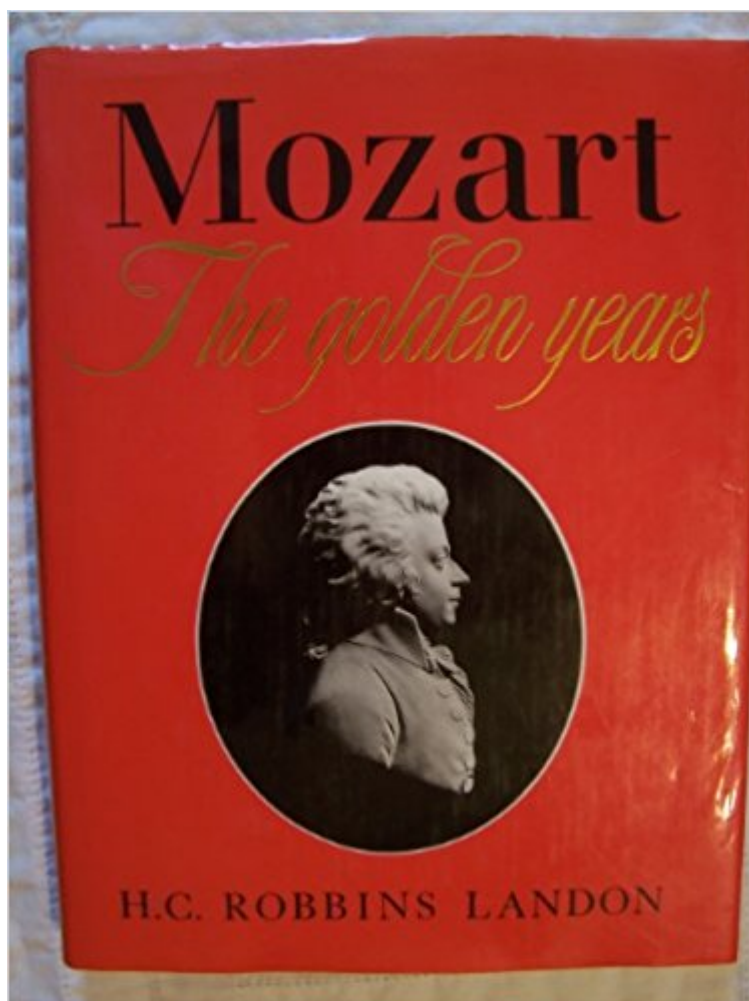


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# Mozart: The Golden Years 1781-1791



## Synopsis

"Telling the story with wit, verve, and a fine eye for the by-ways of Viennese society will draw readers into Mozart's personality and attract them to the eternally ambiguous music." The Observer

The last decade of Mozart's short but amazingly prolific career counts as one of the most remarkable periods; truly golden years; in the history of Western music. Richly illustrated with contemporary paintings and engravings and authoritatively written, this book provides a vivid account of the composer's life in the European music capital, Vienna, from 1781 to 1791. This creative yet turbulent decade witnessed a crescendo of activity. Mozart married Constanze Weber in 1782, and in the ensuing years produced an astonishing wealth of new music, rich in quality as well as quantity. A host of immortal works belong to this period, among them the great trilogy of symphonies (numbers 39, 40, and 41), operatic masterpieces; The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, *Così fan tutte*, and *The Magic Flute*; and the Clarinet Concerto of 1791. Through a close examination of Mozart's public successes and failures; his relationship with his father, Leopold; his devotion to his wife, Constanze; his Masonic associations; and his friendship with Franz Joseph Haydn, H. C. Robbins Landon provides an intimate and eminently readable portrait of an extraordinary musical genius. 242 illustrations, 32 in color. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 271 pages

Publisher: Schirmer Books; 1st edition (1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0028720253

ISBN-13: 978-0028720258

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #264,489 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Classical #541 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

Musical Genres > Opera #753 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres >

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## Customer Reviews

H. C. Robbins Landon's many books include *The Mozart Essays*, *Mozart and Vienna*, and *1791:*

Mozart's Last Year. He is also the author of the definitive five-volume Haydn: Chronicle and Works. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A great book! Landon exhaustively studies Mozart's last decade (he did another study of Mozart's last year, which is brilliant), the best years of arguably history's finest composer. Mozart remains an enigma, but Landon does all one could ask, to pierce the many veils that surround him.

H.C. Robbins Landon was one of the leading scholars of his day on the music of Mozart and Haydn, and this book is a very fine example of his scholarship with the former, focusing on the last 10 years of Mozart's admittedly too-short life. For the most part, this book is definitely aimed at the "intelligent layperson" who may not necessarily have a strong technical background in music. It reads clearly on historical grounds, and readers can enjoy it for the coverage of the historical aspects alone. It does contain some relatively brief discussion of a more technical bent on Mozart's skill in composition, particularly in Chapter 8, covering the six quartets that Mozart dedicated to Haydn as well as a brief survey of Mozart's piano concertos. The book is copiously illustrated as well. It must be admitted, however, that this book did appear originally in 1989, so that obviously any later scholarship by Robbins Landon and others must, by definition, be missing. Still, with that in mind, this makes a very substantial introduction for those who want to start to understand Mozart from that decade of 1781 to 1791.

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This deluxe paperback edition of "Mozart, The Golden Years" is a 250th Anniversary Issue (of Mozart's birth) of H.C. Robbins Landon's splendid book, originally issued in 1989. Landon is best known as an expert on the life and music of Haydn, but was also very knowledgeable about Mozart, Haydn's contemporary. Landon focuses on the years Mozart spent in Vienna from 1781 until his death in 1791, the years that Mozart composed most of his many musical masterpieces. The opening chapter, however, provides a summary of his early years in Salzburg. The final year, 1791, of Mozart's life is only briefly covered in this volume. Landon has written a separate book, "1791, Mozart's Last Year," that covers in detail Mozart's most prolific year, his "annus mirabilis." In both books, Landon states that he has aimed for both readability and scholarly content. By and large, he has been successful in achieving that goal. Besides discussing Mozart's life and music, Landon describes life in Vienna, already the musical capital of Europe, in the late Eighteenth Century. The last chapter deals with a possible Freemason conspiracy against the Austrian government in 1791. Mozart was a Freemason, but his role, if any, in such a conspiracy is unknown. In any event, Freemason activity was sharply curtailed in the years following 1791, and some lodges were closed. Elsewhere, Landon has divided his attention about equally between Mozart's life and his compositions. There are excellent discussions of his chamber music and his piano concertos, in particular. The book is footnoted extensively and also contains seven appendices on various topics related to Mozart's Vienna years. The many illustrations, some in full-plate color, with informative captions are reason enough on their own to get this book. Since it is also being offered at a bargain price, I highly recommend that anyone with more than a passing interest in Mozart and his music get a copy while supplies last. You won't regret it! (Another reviewer points out that new discoveries and scholarship since 1989 are not covered in this reissue. That shouldn't be a problem except for advanced scholars.)

This Book is a very good book! I checked out lots of books of the library and this book is a VERY GOOD MOZART BOOK! I personally will buy this when I can.. I have it in my Wishlist. (I don't have enough money to buy it now).. So I rate this book \*\*\*\*\* (5) Stars! IF YOU WANT YOU CAN BUY IT FOR ME, IT IS NO PROBLEM.

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