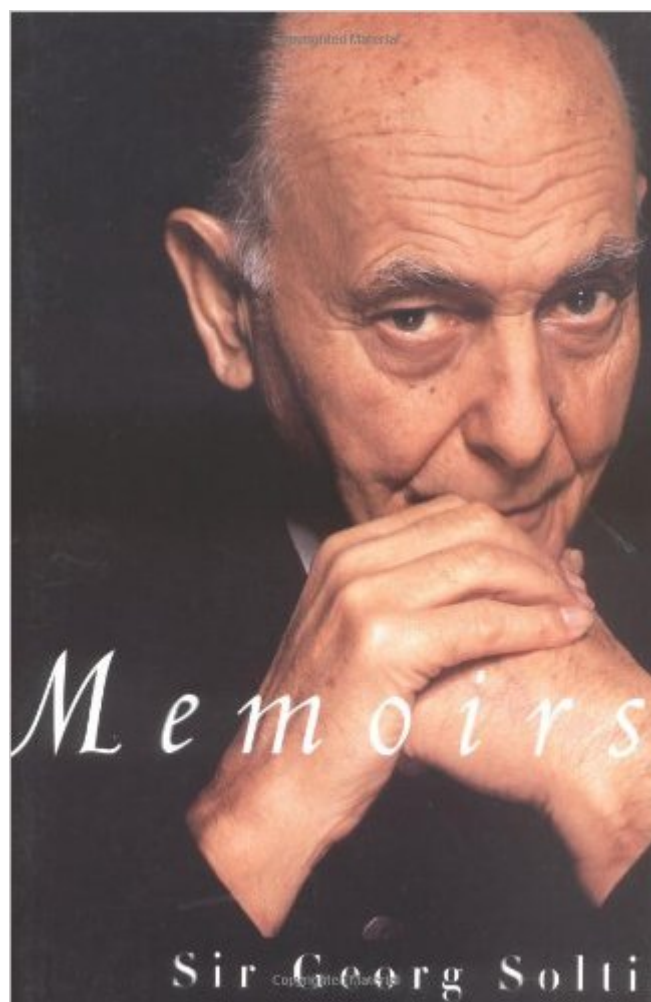


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Memoirs



Synopsis

In these pages Sir Georg Solti relives an unparalleled musical life: his musical studies in Budapest with Dohnányi, Kodály, and Bartók; his exile in Zurich during World War II; his work as music director of the Bavarian State Opera in postwar Munich and similar posts in Frankfurt and London's Covent Garden; his brilliant direction of the Chicago Symphony (1969–1991); and his freelance conducting of the world's greatest orchestras. By turns touching and amusing, his recollections of such luminaries as Strauss, Stravinsky, Toscanini, Walter, Furtwängler, Klemperer, Nilsson, and Domingo fill this memoir with musical pleasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is somewhat self-serving to the late Sir Georg, but it also brings a touching amount of humanity to one of the brightest recent stars of the classical music universe. These "intimate" memoirs are specially interesting given the high status awarded to great conductors and the general perception that they are autocratic geniuses. Georg Solti does not display false modesty here, yet he does reveal sufficient elements of his ordinary life for us to understand how he developed his extraordinary artistic talent, and how he was eventually able to craft such a wonderful career by working on what he loved most: music.

A well-written, rather breezy account of the Maestro's life, from birth to his retirement from the Chicago Symphony. A little too much detail on his childhood years--who hasn't read all that can be read about Europe before WW II?--and not enough detail on what made his performances of opera

and symphonic works so special. I could have done with more detail on how and why he phrases certain passages the way he does, his choice of tempo, etc. Also, I would have enjoyed his views on how to build a successful program and season. Over all, a good read.

Wonderful book! You can buy new, hardcover editions from the Chicago Symphony's gift store.

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