



REGALO PRESS

I Knew a Man Who Knew Brahms

A Memoir
by Nancy Shear

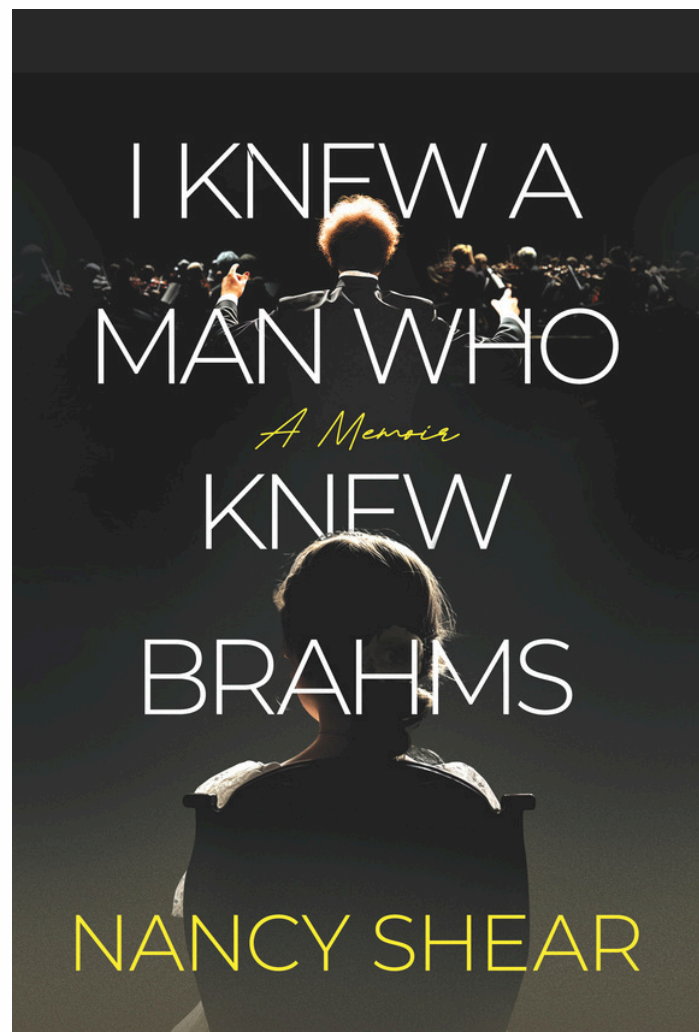
A vivid personal account of a Golden Age in classical music—the second half of the 20th century—providing a rare, behind-the-scenes view of the inner workings of a top symphony orchestra.

Nancy Shear was only fifteen when she began sneaking into Philadelphia Orchestra concerts through the stage door, and seventeen when she was hired as a member of the orchestra's library staff to help prepare the music; one year later, she became Leopold Stokowski's musical assistant. Being young and female, she was a pioneer in both positions.

I Knew a Man Who Knew Brahms takes readers into the homes, studios, and minds of legendary artists with whom Shear shared close personal relationships, including Mstislav Rostropovich, Eugene Ormandy, and members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Many of these brilliant and talented artists were also outrageous, egocentric, and tyrannical. Throughout this book, Shear topples more than a few revered musicians from their podiums and their pedestals.

A literary welcome mat to the beautiful world of classical music, this memoir is accessible and engaging for all. It brings readers into rehearsals and concert halls, revealing the choices musicians must consider, and what conductors, players, and composers *really* do.

A heartwarming story about passion, determination, and survival, *I Knew a Man Who Knew Brahms* explores music at its core. No reader will ever listen to music the same way again.



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About Nancy Shear



Photo credit: David Teubner

Nancy Shear's remarkable background includes 20 years as an orchestra librarian, for the Philadelphia Orchestra and Curtis Institute, and privately for Leopold Stokowski, Lorin Maazel and others. Her articles have appeared in major outlets, and she has written a book, *The Three Tenors*. Ms. Shear has lectured for the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Caramoor Festival; has hosted broadcasts of the New York Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Frick Collection and Naumburg Foundation; had her own interview programs on WNYC; and served as commentator for the American Public Media. She has taught at New York University's School of Continuing Education and at the Lillian Vernon Center for International Affairs at New York University, and has lectured at The Juilliard School, Manhattan School, and Mannes School of Music | The New School. Ms. Shear has also lectured on the life and work of Eleanor Roosevelt.