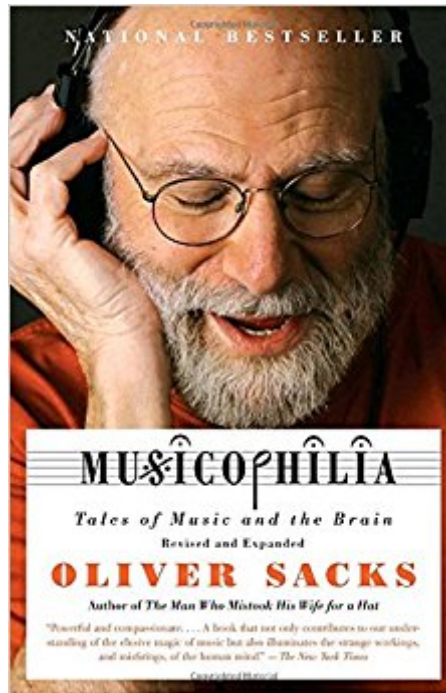




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Musicophilia: Tales Of Music And The Brain, Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Revised and Expanded With the same trademark compassion and erudition he brought to *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, Oliver Sacks explores the place music occupies in the brain and how it affects the human condition. In *Musicophilia*, he shows us a variety of what he calls "musical misalignments." Among them: a man struck by lightning who suddenly desires to become a pianist at the age of forty-two; an entire group of children with Williams syndrome, who are hypermusical from birth; people with "amusia," to whom a symphony sounds like the clattering of pots and pans; and a man whose memory spans only seven seconds-for everything but music. Illuminating, inspiring, and utterly unforgettable, *Musicophilia* is Oliver Sacks' latest masterpiece.

Book Information

Paperback: 425 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Revised & enlarged edition (September 23, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400033535

ISBN-13: 978-1400033539

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 374 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,779 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Philosophy & Social Aspects #8

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Customer Reviews

Best of the Month, December 2007: Legendary R&B icon Ray Charles claimed that he was "born with music inside me," and neurologist Oliver Sacks believes Ray may have been right.

Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain examines the extreme effects of music on the human brain and how lives can be utterly transformed by the simplest of harmonies. With clinical studies covering the tragic (individuals afflicted by an inability to connect with any melody) and triumphant (Alzheimer's patients who find order and comfort through music), Sacks provides an erudite look at the notion that humans are truly a "musical species." --Dave Callanan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sacks is an unparalleled chronicler of modern medicine, and fans of his work will find much to enjoy when he turns his prodigious talent for observation to music and its relationship to the brain. The subtitle aptly frames the book as a series of medical case studies-some in-depth, some abruptly short. The tales themselves range from the relatively mundane (a song that gets stuck on a continuing loop in one's mind) through the uncommon (Tourette's or Parkinson's patients whose symptoms are calmed by particular kinds of music) to the outright startling (a man struck by lightning subsequently developed a newfound passion and talent for the concert piano). In this latest collection, Sacks introduces new and fascinating characters, while also touching on the role of music in some of his classic cases (the man who mistook his wife for a hat makes a brief appearance). Though at times the narrative meanders, drawing connections through juxtaposition while leaving broader theories to be inferred by the reader, the result is greater than the sum of its parts. This book leaves one a little more attuned to the remarkable complexity of human beings, and a bit more conscious of the role of music in our lives. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great somewhat clinical read. I purchased several books from Oliver Sacks, this was the first I read. Well written, exposing interesting cases about a variety effects of music (both good and bad) can have on the human brain. Look forward to reading more from this doctor.

... I was a little disappointed. 4.5 stars I enjoy every book by Dr. Sacks. He's always insightful, empathetic, and a brilliant storyteller. All the things you like about Dr. Sacks' writing you will find in full in this book. I really like this book. Once again, Dr. Sacks makes the stories of his patients come alive and demonstrate brilliantly the relationship between our mental states and abilities and the physiological functioning of the brain. Bravo. If you like Sacks, you will like this book (very much I would say.) But ... my but: With a title like Musicophilia ("the love of music") I was expecting much more about WHY we humans ENJOY music so much. Why are we the musical ape? This is only touched on tangentially in this book. I felt a bit of false advertising in the title. I've read Anthony Storr's book "Music and the Mind" and "Music, The Brain, And Ecstasy: How Music Captures Our Imagination" by Robert Jourdain (both are good.) With Dr. Sacks' title (and maybe it was chosen by his publisher, this often happens) I expected something more in that vein: the enjoyment of music. (And so, I still await further explorations ...) All in all a great book. Enjoy.

Oliver Sacks is truly one of the greats. This book can interest psychologists (me) and musical enthusiasts (also me, but who isn't) and just regular people who are interested in learning about some of the fascinating parts of the human experience and mind.

Love this book. I bought this for my nephew, since he is now getting into music. It's a great story and interesting.

Fantastic work by Oliver Sacks as he illustrates the connection between music and the human mind. An eye opener into the world of music therapy, and a thoughtful work expressing the benefits of music with respect to neurology and neurological disease. Each chapter administers a great impact with even greater emotion escorted alongside.

As a retired professional musician (orchestra, professorship, teacher of youngsters, and a jazzier too), I certainly wish I had read this book earlier! Very enlightening. Sacks as usual employs slightly abnormal or above-normal patients to introduce important issues about musical perception, learning, memory, memorization and practice, and more. I have learned so much here! A great gift to anyone in the music business. Might be a bit difficult for a junior reader.

I bought this as a gift for a music loving friend for her bachelorette party. She was surprised and excited as she had been wanting to read it for a while! She gave it rave reviews and I'm actually thinking of seeing if I can borrow it myself as it sounds like a good read.

I purchased this book as a gift and it arrived in plenty of time. The person who I bought it for has been playing the piano for the last 60 years. She loves the book and has found it to be fascinating. She'd highly recommend it to any music lover.

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