

“*Year of Wonder* is an absolute treat—the most enlightening way to be guided through the year.”— **Eddie Redmayne**

# YEAR OF WONDER

Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day

By **Clemency Burton-Hill**

“BBC radio host Burton-Hill is an evangelist for classical music, arguing that it enriches peoples’ lives, and she’s devised this welcoming day-by-day listening guide for readers new to the form... Burton-Hill’s delightful and informative guide provides a daily dose of the beauty of classical music and also an enticing introduction to it.”—*Publishers Weekly*

Award-winning violinist and renowned classical music journalist Clemency Burton-Hill offers a life-changing musical ritual in **YEAR OF WONDER: Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day (Harper; October 30, 2018)**. Positing that making time for engaged listening to one piece of classical music every day will bring on a healthier and happier mindset, Burton-Hill has created a 366-day field guide through some of the most important pieces and composers.

Burton-Hill presents the music to which she’s devoted her life: the works of 240 composers hailing from all corners of classical music’s rich history. Never straying from a strong belief in classical music’s connective beauty, she places various eras and movements in conversation with each other in a modern and playful way, capturing the ameliorative transcendence of classical music as a genre. Ultimately, Burton-Hill shows us how making time for it each day can be both meditative and nourishing amidst the chaos of everyday life.

Accompanying each daily piece is a short, accessible explanation, rich in historical and biographical detail, musical insight, and wry humor. Across the year, Burton-Hill features the work of classical music’s greats, from Bach to Duke Ellington, while shining a light on lesser known artists, including a number of oft-overlooked female composers such as Lili Boulanger, Charlotte Bray, Augusta Holmes, or Chiquinha Gonzaga.

Thoughtfully curated, exhaustively researched, and passionately presented, **YEAR OF WONDER** is an inviting and accessible exploration of classical music's potential to change lives—and the ideal companion for the holiday season and New Year.

**About the Author**

**Clemency Burton-Hill** is Creative Director, Music & Arts at New York Public Radio. In her native UK, she has been a prominent host on BBC radio and television arts programs for over a decade. She contributes on a range of subjects to the *Economist*, *1843 Magazine*, *FT Weekend*, *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*. An award-winning violinist, Clemency has performed all over the world under leading conductors, including Daniel Barenboim. Born in London, she lives in New York with her husband and two young sons.

**YEAR OF WONDER**  
**Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day**  
**By Clemency Burton-Hill**  
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## **YEAR OF WONDER: Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day**

**By Clemency Burton-Hill**

- **YEAR OF WONDER** surveys 366 pieces by 240 composers, to be listened to one per day throughout the year.
- Burton-Hill argues that the ritual of engaging thoughtfully with one piece of classical music every day will enrich one's life, providing space for self-reflection and mental nourishment amidst the frantic pace of modern life. Studies suggest that the focus and intention with which we listen to music can be just as centering as other daily mindfulness practices.
- Classical music has a reputation for being exclusive and stuffy. No more! Clemency Burton-Hill makes classical music radically accessible, balancing storytelling, history, theory, and humor in short explanations that accompany each featured piece. This is music appreciation at its finest.
- Burton-Hill's background as an award-winning violinist and preeminent presence in British music media makes her the perfect docent through a year-long gallery of notable composers.
- From the Medievalists to the Millennials, Burton-Hill's curation spans contemporary and classic composers alike. From household composers like Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Puccini, and Gershwin to the envelope-pushing Rimsky-Korsakov or immensely-talented Clara Schumann. Burton-Hill speaks to the rich history, diverse talent, and enduring joy of classical music.
- **YEAR OF WONDER** offers a necessary and unique corrective to the classical music canon's largely male-dominated history, shining a light on the works of many less-heralded female composers.
- Burton-Hill's superbly curated list has already been transcribed into a Spotify playlist, found [here](#) or searchable on Spotify as "Year of Wonder: Classical Music for Every Day"
- With a bold, glittering, and undeniably appealing package, **YEAR OF WONDER** is a must-have gift book for any music lover.

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