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Playing Before the Lord: The Life and Work of Joseph Haydn

Calvin R. Stapert

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Playing Before the Lord: The Life and Work of Joseph Haydn Calvin R. Stapert
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) has been called the father of the symphony and the string quartet. A friend of Mozart and a teacher of Beethoven, "Papa" Haydn composed an amazing variety of music -- symphonies, string quartets, concerti, masses, operas, oratorios, keyboard works -- and his prolific output celebrates both the heights and depths of life.

In this fascinating book Calvin Stapert combines his skills as a biographer and a musicologist to recount Haydn's steady rise from humble origins to true musical greatness. Unlike other biographers, Stapert argues that Haydn's work was a product of his devout Catholic faith, even though he worked mainly as a court musician and the bulk of his output was in popular genres. In addition to telling Haydn's life story, Stapert includes accessible listening guides to *The Creation* and portions of other well-known works to help Haydn listeners more fully appreciate the brilliance behind his music.

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