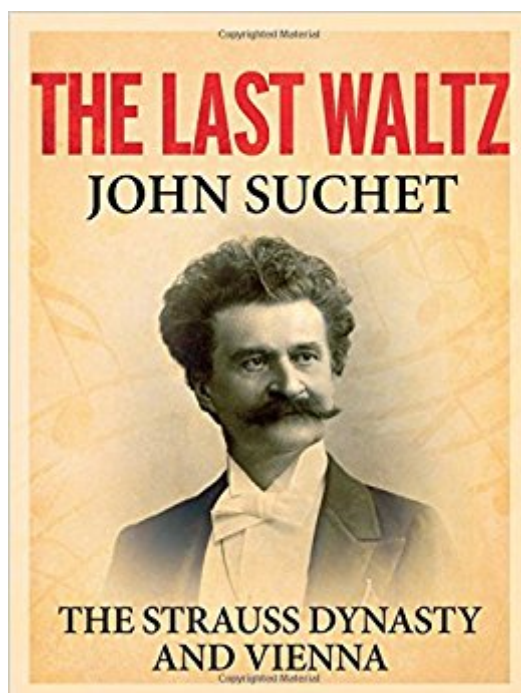


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The Last Waltz: The Strauss Dynasty And Vienna



Synopsis

Captured in a beautiful package, including more than fifty color photographs, *The Last Waltz* tells the intriguing story of the Viennese Strauss family known for producing some of the best known, best loved music of the nineteenth century. Johann and Josef Strauss, the Waltz Kings, composed hundreds of instantly recognizable and enduring melodies, including *The Blue Danube Waltz*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *Voices of Spring* and *The Radetzky March*. Their iconic music has been featured on the scores of nearly a thousand films. Yet despite their success, this was a family riven with tension, feuds and jealousy, living in a country that was undergoing seismic upheaval. Through the personal and political chaos, the Strauss family continued to compose music to which the Viennese – anxious to forget their troubles – could dance and drink champagne, even as their country hurtled towards oblivion at the hands of the First World War. Classical music expert and radio host John Suchet skillfully portrays this gripping story, capturing the family dramas, the tensions, triumphs and disasters against the turbulent backdrop of Austria in the nineteenth century, from revolution to regicide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I greatly enjoyed spending time with John Suchet's fascinating book about Johann Strauss, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did." – André Rieu "Very readable ... elegantly prepared with plenty of quality illustrations ... makes a fascinating read about one of the greatest musical dynasties that ever lived. John Suchet puts their personal lives into the context of the

politics of the day without missing out on the musical history. A book to be thoroughly recommended." *John Diamond*, Chairman of The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain "Riveting reading ... I found it difficult to put down. Stuffed full of facts, both historical and musical, this is in no way a dry academic tome because John Suchet, as always, spins his enthusiastic way through the drama as if guiding us personally in the footsteps of the protagonists and their times. I can highly recommend this absorbing and beautifully presented book."

Howard Shelley, pianist and conductor "This handsomely presented volume positively screams to be taken down from the shelf and explored. In its pages, John Suchet succeeds in giving an overview of the Viennese Strauss dynasty of musicians, setting it in the context of the often turbulent and tragic lives of the ruling Habsburg dynasty. Importantly, and unlike almost every other contemporary writer in this field, Suchet embraces the fact that the Strauss family's music-making did not end with the death of the 'Waltz King' in 1899, but continued well into the 'swinging sixties' of the 20th century."

Peter Kemp, author of *The Strauss Family: Portrait of a Musical Dynasty* "Handsomely produced and superbly written" *As a former News at Ten anchor [Suchet] knows a thing or two about distilling narratives and crafting pay-off lines. (His best is the book's very last sentence, which it would be churlish to reveal.)*"

Richard Osborne, *The Oldie* "John beautifully balances the family Strauss saga with the fall of the Habsburg Empire. This copiously illustrated book is terrific!"

Carl Davis, composer and conductor "Engaging ... the narrative style is very beguiling and draws the reader in very quickly. I could not put this down once I had started it... This book, as well as being immensely readable, entertaining and beautifully written, is also beautifully produced. The paper is of a high quality, the kind that you want to stroke, the illustrations are superb and the layout of the whole book is a joy. I loved it."

Random Jottings blog "Thoroughly interesting and entertaining" -- *The Herts Advertiser* "Incredibly informative and entertaining ... made me realise how little I knew about this musical dynasty. [Suchet's] talent for giving the reader facts without any heavy academic approach means this is a very approachable route into becoming your own Strauss authority! The snippets and anecdotes have been carefully collected and put together in such a way that dipping in and out of the book is easy - highly recommended for anyone wondering what is behind the Blue Danube!" -- *Sandra Parr*, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra and Ensembles), Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

JOHN SUCHET is a well-known journalist and radio presenter in the UK where he presents for Classic FM, the UK's only 100 per cent classical music radio station. Before turning to classical music, he was one of the UK's best-known television journalists. He has been

named Television Journalist of the Year, Television Newscaster of the Year, and been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Royal Television Society. He has also been honored by the Royal Academy of music for his work on Beethoven including the internationally bestselling Beethoven: The Man Revealed.

Excellent book and we received it in excellent condition. This book is well written and beautifully illustrated with drawings and important photographs that bring the history to life. There is a lot of great information in here for Strauss fans, but his life was so interesting that the book should be captivating reading even for readers who had never heard of him before. These family members were the music superstars of the late 19th century, and the fame, trials and tribulations they went through would be the subject of front line news in magazines and papers today. I purchased this book for the library, but I will probably buy another one for my personal collection.

Wunderbar! This book is quite interesting about all the Strauss family and how they were so intricately linked with Vienna. I liked the writing style which is part story, part history/biographical and part gossip....and not in the least bit overly music interpretation. I would have perhaps appreciated a bit more information on many of their famous works...ie. what prompted their composition by title etc. There are many pictures, photographs and portraits of the places and people involved in the accounts.

An excellently written book which definitely evoked the atmosphere of Vienna through it's descriptions of the life there at that time, as well as the additional information about the royal family that isn't readily imparted when you visit the city. The author brings to life the events of the era through his warm and friendly writing style and well researched material, which gives the reader the feeling that this could "almost be a novel" rather than a book of actual historic fact. I would recommend this book both to those and those who have not been to Vienna!

It is hard to find a biography about Johann Strauss, Jr. and this one is excellent. (It talks about the entire Strauss family.)

Heard about this book on Classic FM, the British radio broadcast. Absolutely loved it, it made me see Vienna through different eyes. I learned a lot about its history as well as European history and as a side effect it made me realise what a good and smart performer Andre Rieu is. I learned about

the Straus family in a very easy and comfortable way. A must have book for all music lovers and if you've never been to Vienna you really want to after, or even better during, reading this book. Well written and a very good read!

It is a very well research story of the Strauss Family, the musical history of Vienna and Europe during their lifetime and an insight into the private lives of all the members of the Strauss Family. The book is a page turner.

Really enjoyed the book and recommend it to anyone who loves music and the historical background of Vienna. A pleasure to read!

If you have ever listened to classical music, then you have heard Strauss waltzes. But, what does that mean? And, who was the Strauss who wrote those pieces? This book tells the story of the famous Strauss family of late-nineteenth century Vienna. There was Johann Strass, who wrote the famous Radetzky March, and then there were his three sons, Johann (who wrote Tales from the Vienna Woods), Josef (who wrote The Mysterious Powers of Magnetism), and Eduard (who wrote Electrisch). But, this is more than just a look at the Strauss family and the music they produced. It's also the story of the twilight of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Old Vienna. First of all, I must say that though I like so many Strauss pieces of music, I am not a rabid fan. So, when I picked up this book, I was not expecting too much. Well, I was very pleasantly surprised by this book. It really is an excellent look at the Strausses and Vienna. And not only is it informative, it's also a very entertaining book to read. If you are interested in music and history, then I think that you will like this book. It's a great book, much better than I ever expected!

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