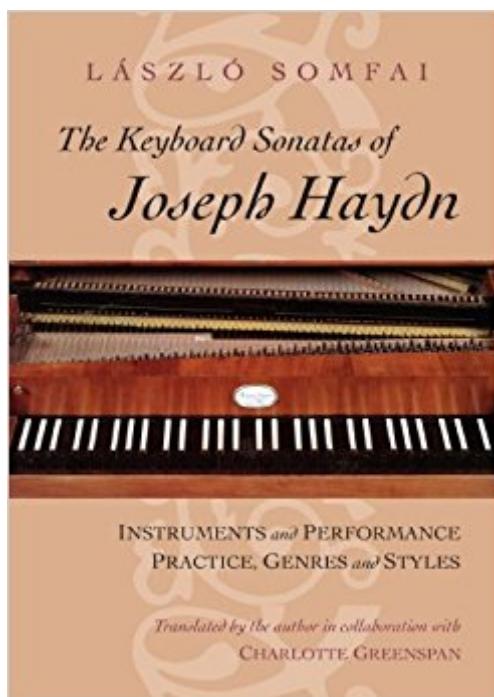


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# The Keyboard Sonatas Of Joseph Haydn: Instruments And Performance Practice, Genres And Styles



## Synopsis

Interest in the authentic performance of early music has grown dramatically in recent years, and scholarly investigation has particularly benefited the study of keyboard music of the classical period. In this landmark publication, the most comprehensive study written on Haydn's keyboard sonatas, a leading Haydn scholar presents novel ideas, corrects misconceptions, and offers new hypotheses on long-debated issues of early music research. Laszlo Somfai begins with a thorough study of Haydn's keyboard instruments and their development. After recommending instruments appropriate for modern use, he discusses performance practice and style, explains the peculiarities of Haydn's manuscripts in the context of eighteenth-century notation, and provides specific suggestions for playing ornaments, improvising, slurring, and dynamics. He also investigates Haydn's sonata genres within their historical context and discusses the problems of establishing a chronology of their composition. Finally, Somfai analyzes the organization and style of each musical form. The book includes an index listing the sonatas by date of first publication, and an extensive bibliography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Somfai's book has been in print in Hungarian for some years now, and it is no exaggeration to say that it has changed dramatically the manner in which not only Haydn, but to a great extent Mozart and Beethoven as well, are played in that country. My own interpretations have benefited enormously from Somfai's work, and every serious student of this repertoire should consider this study essential." - Malcolm Bilson, Cornell University"

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Hungarian --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

An excellent book on a rarely discussed topic. Somfai is an expert on the subject, and the translation of his original Hungarian prose into English is unusually well done. If you are interested in Haydn's keyboard sonatas, both from an historical as well as performance aspect, this is a fine book to have. It is not a steady barrage of theory, but helps establish an historical context as well.

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