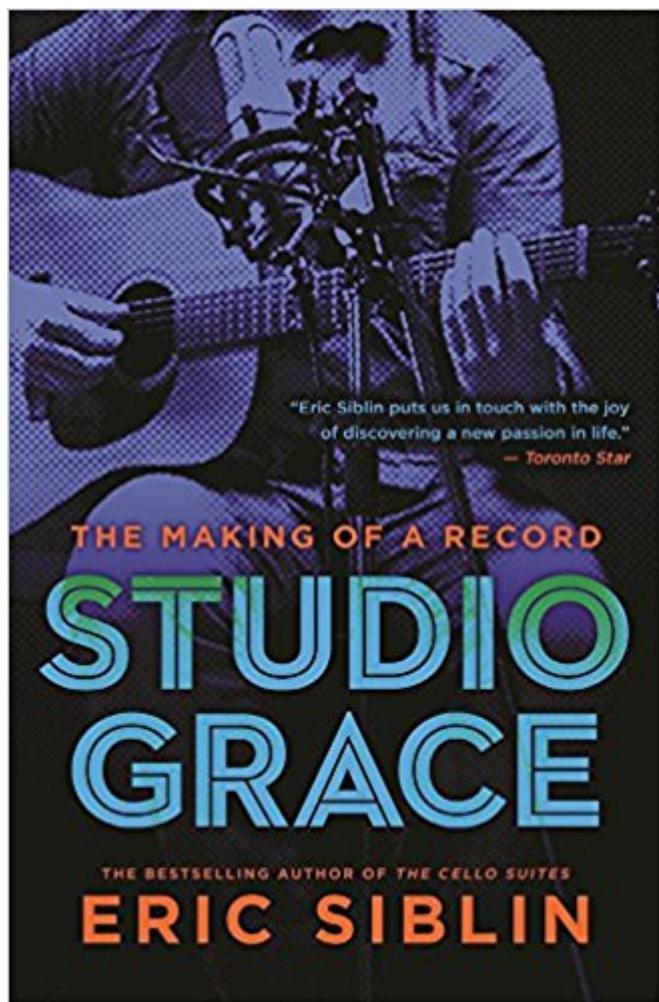


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Studio Grace: The Making Of A Record



Synopsis

With a dozen original songs percolating in his head, bestselling author Eric Siblin had two chance encounters in the same month: one with a real estate agent named Jo, a talented singer with pop star dreams; and the other with a college acquaintance named Morey, a fiery guitarist, record turned digital music producer, and manager of his teenage daughter's burgeoning singing career. These two serendipitous events mark the start of a musical odyssey. In *Studio Grace*, Eric Siblin chronicles the twelve-month realization of a long-held dream: recording an album of original material. To get there he plunges into the joyful and painful heart of songcraft, grappling with elusive verses and choruses until they are ready for recording. Siblin's songs are captured in three very different studios reflecting the evolution of sound recording: a tiny basement studio run by a wedding band drummer; the famed Hotel2Tango analogue studio, where a former producer of Arcade Fire connects Siblin with hipster musicians; and the mansion attic where his new friend Morey creates songs on a laptop using the latest in digital technology and the global distribution network that is YouTube. Published to coincide with the release of the album of the same name, *Studio Grace* is an entertaining and demystifying behind-the-scenes look at the making of a record filled with songs about love gained and love lost, about modern identity theft and ancient battlegrounds, about life and death, fleshed out by a host of eclectic characters, from ambitious young singers to veteran session musicians and unknown engineers to high-profile producers – all of whom are pursuing the multi-layered dream of a four-minute pop song.

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Customer Reviews

Engaging look at the seductions of late-in-life creativity and a cleareyed account of the strange state of today's music industry.Kirkus ReviewsPraise for Studio Grace"Studio Grace is an intimate, at times exhaustive account of Siblin's journey in writing and recording an album." ; Montreal Review of Books"[a] musical odyssey . . ." ; National Post"Siblin has given us a book that really did need to be written." ; The Globe and Mail"Seeing this world through Siblin's fresh eyes, the reader gains a whole new respect for the prosaic elements of music-making . . ." ; Montreal Gazette"How he engaged with the musicians and recording engineers to achieve his dream make for another great read." ; The Senior TimesPraise for The Cello Suites "To vivify music in words is not easy. But Mr. Siblin rises to the task; Read The Cello Suites; preferably with their melodious hum in the background; and you will never look at a cello in quite the same way again." ; The Economist; This is one of the most extraordinary, clever, beautiful, and impeccably researched books I have read in years. A fascinating story deftly told; and, for me at least, ideally read with Bach's thirty-six movements playing softly in the background; a recipe for literary rapture. ; Simon Winchester, author of The New York Times Best Seller The Professor and the Madman; A work of ever-percolating interest. Mr. Siblin winds up mixing high and low musical forms, art and political histories, Bach's and Casals's individual stories and matters of arcane musicology into a single inquisitive volume. ; Janet Maslin, The New York Times; This is rich terrain, and Siblin's book is an engrossing combination of musical and political history spiced with generally vivid descriptions of the cello suites themselves . . . Best of all, The Cello Suites makes us want to pop in a CD and really listen to those cello suites. Awesome. ; Wynne Delacoma, Chicago Sun-Times; The ironies of artistic genius and public taste are subtly explored in this winding, entertaining tale of a musical masterpiece; Siblin is an insightful writer with an ability to convey the sound and emotional impact of music in words. ; Publishers Weekly; Included in his thorough research are interviews with cellist such as Mischa Maisky and Anner Bylsma; In Siblin's history of the composer, Bach is far from the stuffy image often applied to classic music; he appears restless, brash, and proud; Siblin's writing is most inspired when describing the life of Casals, showing a genuine affection for the cellist. ; Elliot Mandel, Booklist (starred review); Engaging and imaginative; a charming narrative. ; The Seattle Times; [Siblin]; can charmingly and empathetically convey the sweet sounds of a live performance through the

medium of black marks on a white page; which, ironically, is exactly how Bach's music was first conceived... But such lyrical interpretations of the wonder of Bach's music are not even Siblin's main thrust. He braids his own experiences with the musical voyages of Bach and Casals into a portrait of the wild confluence of creativity, politics, ambition, and fate that mark the astonishing life of the six Cello Suites. — Paul Di Filippo, *The Speculator*, a column in the Barnes & Noble Review; A winning combination of music history, biography, and whimsy. — Priscilla S. Taylor, *The Washington Times*; Siblin firmly believes "Bach is what you make of him"; and his book represents just that; No matter what the great composer means to readers, they will surely enjoy Siblin's fun, fast-paced journey from pop-music scribbler to Bach aficionado. — Christian Science Monitor

Eric Siblin is the bestselling author of *The Cello Suites*, which won the QWF Mavis Gallant Nonfiction Prize and the McAuslan First Book Award, and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Writers' Trust Nonfiction Prize, and the BC National Award for Canadian Nonfiction. So far, the work has been published in thirteen territories and in nine languages. He lives in Montreal, Quebec.

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