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# **Violin Dreams**

Arnold Steinhardt



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## Violin Dreams Arnold Steinhardt

"A rapturous, witty, and passionate memoir ... Violin Dreams is not only the story of a man becoming an artist, it's a history of twentieth-century music." — John Guare, Tony Award–winning playwright

Arnold Steinhardt, for more than forty years an international soloist and the first violinist of the Guarneri String Quartet, brings warmth, wit, and fascinating insider details to the story of his lifelong obsession with the violin, that most seductive and stunningly beautiful instrument. His story is rich with vivid scenes: the terror inflicted by his early violin teachers, the sensual pleasure involved in the pursuit of the perfect violin, the charged atmosphere of high-level competitions. Steinhardt describes Bach's Chaconne as the holy grail for the solo violin, and he illuminates, from the perspective of an ardent owner of a great Storioni violin, the history and mysteries of the renowned Italian violinmakers.

Violin Dreams includes a remarkable audio recording of Steinhardt performing Bach's Partita in D Minor as a young violinist forty years ago and playing the same piece especially for this book. A conversation between the author and Alan Alda on the differences between the two performances is included in the ebook.

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