

About the happiness of music



Hanns-Josef Ortheil **Moments of Music** [Musikmomente]

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Hanns-Josef Ortheil, born in 1951, is one of the most important contemporary German authors and has received many awards for his work, among them the Brandenburg Literature Prize, the Thomas Mann Prize, the Nicolas Born Prize and the Hannelore Greve Literature Prize. In 2009 he became the first director of the newly founded "Institute for Literary Writing and Literary Studies" at the University of Hildesheim. His novels have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Over and over again in his novels, Hanns-Josef Ortheil has told of powerful musical moments in which people are in some way involved in music, either as listeners or players or as interpreters of great compositions, such as Johann Sebastian Bach's Passions, or the piano works of Robert Schumann or Frédéric Chopin. There are particularly frequent references to the entire works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to which the trained pianist Hanns-Josef Ortheil has devoted himself intensively and in length.

In this anthology Ortheil introduces us to the most important musical moments in a life – his life – that has been tremendously influenced by music. He outlines the background of a lifetime's listening to music and tells us how music has shaped his thinking and how his perception.