



## Carl Nielsen (20th Century Composers)

By Jack Lawson

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This thorough yet eminently readable biography examines the life and works of Danish composer Carl Nielsen (1865-1931), from his studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory to his status as one of Scandinavia's most important composers. Focusing on Nielsen's personality as well as his music, Jack Lawson's book offers a unique insight into this versatile composer's mind, and contains much previously unpublished information.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) is one of those composers who tend to be a late discovery on the part of lovers of classical music. Yet he need not be an acquired taste; this is powerful, well-written music, fashioned on a classical, rather than romantic, base, and every bit as accessible as his better-known and more popular Scandinavian contemporary, Jean Sibelius. Nielsen is Denmark's one great claim to compositional fame, and in this new biography Jack Lawson traces his rise from impoverished farm boy to a dominant musical figure in the life of his country, and of Europe, not to mention to the position of one of the greatest symphony writers of all time. This is one of Phaidon's 20th-Century Composers series, and as such strives to make its subject as accessible as possible to the music lover who is not necessarily a music expert.

#### Review

'The ideal introduction to a still under-appreciated composer.' (Hi-Fi News) 'Fascinating and fastidiously researched.' (The Scotsman) 'The photographs are among the book's greatest assets, since they are both well chosen and excellently reproduced. The accompanying descriptions are tastefully written, factual and informative.' (Classical Music) 'As a series, Phaidon's 20th Century Composers has brought remarkable variety and a welter of information, both necessary and delightfully trivial. Intended both for the general reader and for the more enthusiastically musical...' (The Scotsman)

#### About the Author

Jack Lawson is founder and secretary of the Carl Nielsen Society of Great Britain. He has written extensively on Nielsen's music for CD and programme notes, and for magazines including Classic CD and Opera Now.

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