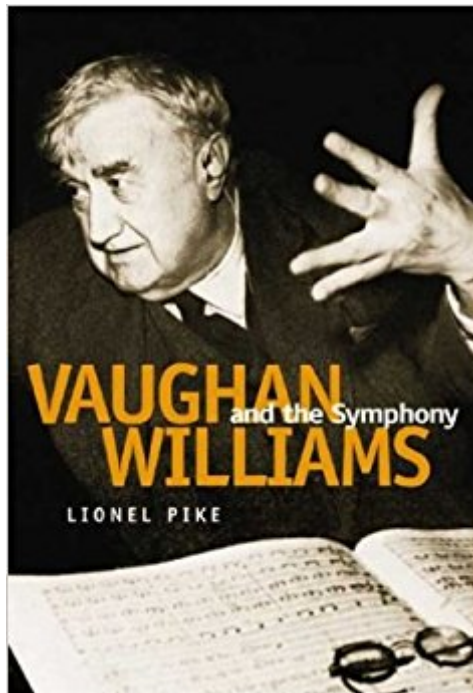




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Synopsis

Vaughan Williams' nine symphonies are among the finest pieces of music written in the twentieth century, each one revealing new aspects of Vaughan Williams' formidable creative personality. But for many years these works were undervalued by imperceptive critics - and Vaughan Williams did himself no favours by joking, with misplaced humility, about what he felt was his own lack of expertise. Lionel Pike's penetrating analysis of all nine works reveals the hidden complexities that lie below the surface. He argues that 'RVW' has been consistently denied his rightful place in twentieth-century music and in the history of the symphony, and that close investigation can uncover elements of construction that show the mind of a genius at work.

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