

# Stephen Sondheim A Life

Thinking Inside the Box  
 GEMIGNANI  
 An Opinionated Guide  
 A Life  
 Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can't Live Without Them  
 Onstage and Backstage from A to Z  
 Getting Away with Murder  
 Sondheim in Our Time and His  
 Look, I Made a Hat  
 Poems for Life  
 The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch  
 Sondheim on Music  
 The New Musical  
 Putting It Together  
 Hat Box  
 The Leonard Bernstein Letters  
 The Encyclopaedia Britannica  
 Company  
 By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (TCG Edition)  
 Stephen Sondheim  
 A Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, Literature and General Information  
 A Life  
 Stephen Sondheim  
 Stephen Sondheim - at a Glance  
 Sondheim: Lyrics  
 A Life  
 Frank Lloyd Wright  
 The Birth of the Musical Follies  
 Sondheim & Co  
 The Stephen Sondheim Encyclopedia  
 Life and Lessons from Broadway and Beyond  
 Duveen  
 Minor Details and Major Decisions  
 Collected Lyrics (1981-2011), With Attendant Comments, Amplifications, Dogmas, Harangues, Digressions, Anecdotes and Miscellany  
 Sunday in the Park with George  
 Stephen Sondheim and the Reinvention of the American Musical  
 West Side Story  
 Mike Nichols  
 Literature, Adaptation, and the Modern American Musical

*Stephen Sondheim A Life*

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## KOCH LAMBERT

**Thinking Inside the Box** Doubleday Books for Young Readers

A National Book Critics Circle finalist • One of People's top 10 books of 2021 • An instant New York Times bestseller • Named a best book of the year by NPR and Time A magnificent biography of one of the most protean creative forces in American entertainment history, a life of dazzling highs and vertiginous plunges—some of the worst largely unknown until now—by the acclaimed author of *Pictures at a Revolution* and *Five Came Back* Mike Nichols burst onto the scene as a wunderkind: while still in his twenties, he was half of a hit improv duo with Elaine May that was the talk of the country. Next he directed four consecutive hit plays, won back-to-back Tonys, ushered in a new era of Hollywood moviemaking with *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and followed it with *The Graduate*, which won him an Oscar and became the third-highest-grossing movie ever. At thirty-five, he lived in a three-story Central Park West penthouse, drove a Rolls-Royce, collected Arabian horses, and counted Jacqueline Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, Leonard Bernstein, and Richard Avedon as friends. Where he arrived is even more astonishing given where he had begun: born Igor Peschkowsky to a Jewish couple in Berlin in 1931, he was sent along with his younger brother to America on a ship in 1939. The young immigrant boy caught very few breaks. He was bullied and ostracized—an allergic reaction had rendered him permanently hairless—and his father died when he was just twelve, leaving his mother alone and overwhelmed. The gulf between these two sets of facts explains a great deal about Nichols's transformation from lonely outsider to the center of more than one cultural universe—the acute powers of observation that first made him famous; the nourishment he drew from his creative partnerships, most enduringly with May; his unquenchable drive; his hunger for security and status; and the depressions and self-medications that brought him to terrible lows. It would take decades for him to come to grips with his demons. In an incomparable portrait that follows Nichols from Berlin to New York to Chicago to Hollywood, Mark Harris explores, with brilliantly vivid detail and insight, the life, work, struggle, and passion of an artist and man in constant motion. Among the 250 people Harris interviewed: Elaine May, Meryl Streep, Stephen Sondheim, Robert Redford, Glenn Close, Tom Hanks, Candice Bergen, Emma Thompson, Annette Bening, Natalie Portman, Julia Roberts, Lorne Michaels, and Gloria Steinem. Mark Harris gives an intimate and evenhanded accounting of success and failure alike; the portrait is not always flattering, but its ultimate impact is to present the full story of one of the most richly interesting, complicated, and consequential figures the worlds of theater and motion pictures have ever seen. It is a triumph of the biographer's art.

*GEMIGNANI* Rowman & Littlefield

Presents a collection of lyrics from the composer, and offers insights into his creative process, relationships with other legends of American theater, experiences in the theater, collaborations, and most significant successes and failures.

*An Opinionated Guide* Rowman & Littlefield

"Steve Swayne's *How Sondheim Found His Sound* is a fascinating treatment and remarkable analysis of America's greatest playwright in song. His marvelous text goes a long way toward placing Stephen Sondheim among the towering artists of the late twentieth century!" —Cornel West, Princeton University "Sondheim's career and music have never been so skillfully dissected, examined, and put in context. With its focus on his work as composer, this book is surprising and welcome." —Theodore S. Chapin, President and Executive Director, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization "... an intriguing 'biography' of the songwriter's style. ... Swayne is to be congratulated for taking the study of this unique composer/lyricist into hitherto uncharted waters." —Stage Directions "The research is voluminous, as are the artistry and perceptiveness. Swayne has lived richly within the world of Sondheim's music." —Richard Crawford, author of

*America's Musical Life: A History* "Amid the ever-more-crowded bookshelf of writings on Sondheim, Swayne's analysis of Sondheim's development as a composer stands up as a unique and worthy study. ... For the Sondheim aficionados, there are new ideas and new information, and for others, Swayne's *How Sondheim Found His Sound* will provide an intriguing introduction into the mind of arguably the greatest and most influential living Broadway composer." —talkinbroadway.com "What a fascinating book, full of insights large and small. An impressive analysis and summary of Sondheim's many sources of inspiration. All fans of the composer and lovers of Broadway in general will treasure and frequently refer to Swayne's work." —Tom Riis, Joseph Negler Professor of Musicology and Director of the American Music Research Center, University of Colorado Stephen Sondheim has made it clear that he considers himself a "playwright in song." How he arrived at this unique appellation is the subject of *How Sondheim Found His Sound*—an absorbing study of the multitudinous influences on Sondheim's work. Taking Sondheim's own comments and music as a starting point, author Steve Swayne offers a biography of the artist's style, pulling aside the curtain on Sondheim's creative universe to reveal the many influences— from classical music to theater to film— that have established Sondheim as one of the greatest dramatic composers of the twentieth century.

**A Life** Oxford University Press on Demand

First Published in 2000. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

*Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can't Live Without Them* Everyman's Library

The Stephen Sondheim Encyclopedia is the first reference volume devoted to the works of this prolific composer and lyricist. The encyclopedia's entries provide readers with detailed information about Sondheim's work and key figures in his career, including his apprenticeship, his early work with Leonard Bernstein, and his work on television.

**Onstage and Backstage from A to Z** Hal Leonard Corporation

The musical theatre of Stephen Sondheim probes deeply into the most disturbing issues of contemporary life. By challenging his audience with intricate music, biting wit, and profound themes, he flouts the traditional wisdom of the musical theatre. Tracing Sondheim's career from his initial success as lyricist for "West Side Story" and "Gypsy" to his most recent work - "Into the Woods" and "Assassins" - Joanne Gordon emphasizes not only the disturbing content of Sondheim's work, but his innovative use of form. In shows such as "A Little Night Music", "Sweeney Todd", and "Sunday in the Park with George", Sondheim's music and lyrics are inextricably woven into the fabric of the entire work.

*Getting Away with Murder* Theatre Communications Grou

In this collection of interviews conducted by Mark Horowitz of the Library of Congress, musical theatre legend Stephen Sondheim discusses the art of musical composition, lyric writing, the collaborative process of musical theater, and how he thinks about his own work. A postlude features a more recent conversation with Sondheim.

**Sondheim in Our Time and His** Routledge

This is the script of the original musical from which the film was adapted, not the film's screenplay.

*Look, I Made a Hat* Oxford University Press

This series of contemporary plays includes structured GCSE assignments for use by individuals or groups. These include questions which involve close reading, writing and discussion. This play places the "Romeo and Juliet" story in a New York gang-warfare context.

**Poems for Life** Theatre Communications Group

In the first full-scale life of the most important composer-lyricist at work in musical theatre today, Meryle Secrest, the biographer of Frank Lloyd Wright and Leonard Bernstein, draws on her extended conversations with Stephen Sondheim as well as on her interviews with his friends, family, collaborators, and lovers to bring us not only the artist—as a master of modernist compositional

style—but also the private man. Beginning with his early childhood on New York's prosperous Upper West Side, Secrest describes how Sondheim was taught to play the piano by his father, a successful dress manufacturer and amateur musician. She writes about Sondheim's early ambition to become a concert pianist, about the effect on him of his parents' divorce when he was ten, about his years in military and private schools. She writes about his feelings of loneliness and abandonment, about the refuge he found in the home of Oscar and Dorothy Hammerstein, and his determination to become just like Oscar. Secrest describes the years when Sondheim was struggling to gain a foothold in the theatre, his attempts at scriptwriting (in his early twenties in Rome on the set of *Beat the Devil* with Bogart and Huston, and later in Hollywood as a co-writer with George Oppenheimer for the TV series *Topper*), living the Hollywood life. Here is Sondheim's ascent to the peaks of the Broadway musical, from his chance meeting with playwright Arthur Laurents, which led to his first success— as lyricist with Leonard Bernstein on *West Side Story*—to his collaboration with Laurents on *Gypsy*, to his first full Broadway score, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. And Secrest writes about his first big success as composer, lyricist, writer in the 1960s with *Company*, an innovative and sophisticated musical that examined marriage à la mode. It was the start of an almost-twenty-year collaboration with producer and director Hal Prince that resulted in such shows as *Follies*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *A Little Night Music*. We see Sondheim at work with composers, producers, directors, co-writers, actors, the greats of his time and ours, among them Leonard Bernstein, Ethel Merman, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein, Jerome Robbins, Zero Mostel, Bernadette Peters, and Lee Remick (with whom it was said he was in love, and she with him), as Secrest vividly re-creates the energy, the passion, the despair, the excitement, the genius, that went into the making of show after Sondheim show. A biography that is sure to become the standard work on Sondheim's life and art.

*The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch* University of Michigan Press

Paul Gemignani is one of the titans of the modern musical theater industry. Serving as musical director for more than forty Broadway productions since 1971, his collaborations with Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Kander, Fred Ebb, Hal Prince, Michael Bennett, and Alan Menken have led to countless accolades for his collaborators, but due to the near invisible position of the musical director in the Broadway industry, Gemignani's story is often overlooked. Gemignani seeks to not only bring the reader into the orchestra pit to learn Gemignani's story but also educate the reader as to the crucial role a music director plays in bringing some of the most iconic musicals in Broadway history to life. Born into a second-generation Italian American family during the aftershocks of the Great Depression, Gemignani worked his way up from playing percussion in USO bands to conducting before Leonard Bernstein, all before becoming a pivotal player in the team that brought some of the most successful musicals of the late twentieth century to the stage. *Sweeney Todd*, *Evita*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Into the Woods* would be quite different without his key contributions, and many of the sonic markers we now associate with the postmodern musical theater can be traced to Gemignani's careful curiosity to expand the bounds of what was possible.

*Sondheim on Music* Hal Leonard Corporation

*Sondheim & Co* is the complete, behind-the-scenes story of the making of Stephen Sondheim's musicals. Written with the full co-operation of Sondheim himself, it examines each of Sondheim's masterpieces - including *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods* - as well as the other Sondheim productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in repertory, as revivals, as opera, on film, and on television. This account is based on hundreds of hours of interviews with Sondheim and his associates.

*The New Musical* Vintage

"This cultural and personal history of crosswords and their fans, written by an aficionado, is diverting, informative, and discursive." —The New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice A delightful, erudite, and immersive exploration of the crossword puzzle and its fascinating history. Almost as soon as it appeared, the crossword puzzle became indispensable to our lives. Invented practically by accident in 1913, when a newspaper editor at the *New York World* was casting around for something to fill empty column space, it became a roaring commercial success almost overnight. Ever since then, the humble puzzle has been an essential ingredient of any newspaper worth its salt. But why, exactly, are the crossword's satisfactions so sweet? Blending first-person reporting from the world of crosswords with a delightful telling of its rich literary history, Adrienne Raphel dives into the secrets of this classic pastime. *Thinking Inside the Box* is an ingenious love letter not just to the abiding power of the crossword but to the infinite joys and playful possibilities of language itself.

*Putting It Together* Rowman & Littlefield

In high school, Stephen Sondheim put a script in front of his friend and mentor Oscar Hammerstein. "I want you to treat this as if it were a script that just came across your desk," Sondheim told the older man. "In that case, it's the worst thing I ever read." So Stephen Sondheim kept writing. He kept composing and in time he became the greatest composer Broadway had ever seen. Beginning with the opening night of the classic musical *West Side Story* in 1957, and tracing Stephen's life from boyhood to his struggles as an up and coming Broadway composer/lyricist to a musical theater legend, Susan Rubin's *Putting It Together* draws readers into the passionate, tumultuous, and musical world of Stephen Sondheim.

*Hat Box* Rowman & Littlefield

(Applause Libretto Library). This 1995 Pulitzer Prize-winning musical was inspired by the painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* by Georges Seurat. A complex work revolving around a fictionalized Seurat immersed in single-minded concentration while painting the masterpiece, the production has evolved into a meditation on art, emotional connection, and community. This publication contains the entire script of the musical. "Sunday is itself a modernist creation, perhaps the first truly modernist work of musical theatre that Broadway has produced ... a watershed event that demands nothing less than a retrospective, even revisionist, look at the development of the serious Broadway musical." Frank Rich, *The New York Times Magazine*

*The Leonard Bernstein Letters* Doubleday Books for Young Readers

"A must-have for all Broadway lovers—*B Is for Broadway*—a book I am actually in!!! I am buying a dozen." —ROSIE O'DONNELL, Isabelle Stevenson Award recipient, three-time Tony Awards host, and Emmy Award winner New from the creators of *A Is for Audra: Broadway's Leading Ladies* from *A to*

*Z!* From AUDITIONS to ZIEGFELD, grab a ticket to this smash-hit, rhythmic alphabet book featuring your favorite performers, creators, songs, and shows from the Broadway stage! Step into the spotlight and celebrate a cavalcade of Broadway legends! Start with "A" for "audition" with the iconic line-up from *A Chorus Line*, then peek behind "B" to see the "backstage" buzz, and dance along with "C" for "choreographers". Children and grown-ups alike can spot beloved stars and creators from today and yesterday, such as Lin-Manuel Miranda, Patti LuPone, Michael Bennett, Jennifer Holliday, Ethel Merman, and Billy Porter. Readers will also see famous New York theaters, beloved shows such as *Hamilton* and *Hairspray*, and the crew, stylists, and technicians who are vital to each performance. It's a celebration of the American stage that no fan is going to want to miss. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book is donated to The Actors Fund. "We are honored that a portion of the proceeds of author John Robert Allman and illustrator Peter Emmerich's *B Is For Broadway* will go to support our programs. The Actors Fund is proud to be at the forefront of helping everyone in the entertainment community with emergency financial assistance and supportive services, and we're grateful that this wonderful new work will help those in need in our performing arts community." —Joseph P. Benincasa, President & CEO, The Actors Fund *B Is for Broadway* is a hit with the stage's greatest stars! "B Is for Broadway celebrates the entire Broadway community—backstage, onstage, everyone! who works in our performing arts and entertainment community. I'm honored to be a part of that beautiful community, and this lovely book." —BEBE NEUWIRTH, Tony and Emmy Award-winning dancer, singer, actress (*Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Cheers*), and Vice Chair of The Actors Fund "E is for excited, which is what I am to be included in this book to benefit the incredible work of The Actors Fund." —BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL, Tony Award-winning actor and Board Chair of The Actors Fund "The illustrations—gorgeous. The rhymes—delicious. This book—a must-have! B is for Broadway and buy-it-now!" —KRISTIN CHENOWETH, Tony Award-winning actress (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*) "What a dynamite willkommen to the world of Broadway!" —JOEL GREY, Tony Award and Oscar-winning actor (*Cabaret*) "B Is for Broadway is a gorgeous children's book that will introduce a young person to all the magic of theater!" —ALI STROKER, Tony Award-winning actress (*Oklahoma!*)

*The Encyclopaedia Britannica* Vintage

Giving each of Stephen Sondheim's musicals its own chapter, Ethan Mordden applies fresh insights and analysis to consider Sondheim's place in modern art, addressing the newcomer and the aficionado alike.

*Company* Penguin

A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the iconic musical *Sunday in the Park with George* with George Putting It Together chronicles the two-year odyssey of creating the iconic Broadway musical *Sunday in the Park with George*. In 1982, James Lapine, at the beginning of his career as a playwright and director, met Stephen Sondheim, nineteen years his senior and already a legendary Broadway composer and lyricist. Shortly thereafter, the two decided to write a musical inspired by Georges Seurat's nineteenth-century painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Through conversations between Lapine and Sondheim, as well as most of the production team, and with a treasure trove of personal photographs, sketches, script notes, and sheet music, the two Broadway icons lift the curtain on their beloved musical. *Putting It Together* is a deeply personal remembrance of their collaboration and friend - ship and the highs and lows of that journey, one that resulted in the beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning classic.

*By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (TCG Edition)* Univ. Press of Mississippi

"It's an incredible honor to be included in this amazing book of the greatest talent the Broadway stage has ever known!" —AUDRA McDONALD, six-time Tony Award-winning actress from *Audra McDonald* to Liza with a "Z," here is a showstopping alphabet book featuring your favorite leading ladies of the Broadway stage! Step into the spotlight and celebrate a cavalcade of Broadway's legendary ladies. Start with "A" for six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald, then sing and dance your way through the alphabet with beloved entertainers like Patti LuPone, Bernadette Peters, Chita Rivera, Lea Salonga, Kristin Chenoweth, Kelli O'Hara, and Liza Minnelli! Broadway fans and theater lovers everywhere will give a standing ovation to this one-of-a-kind tribute full of toe-tapping rhymes, with illustrations as bright and beautiful as the shining lights on any marquee. AND DON'T MISS THE SEQUEL COMING IN OCTOBER: *B IS FOR BROADWAY: ONSTAGE AND BACKSTAGE FROM A TO Z! THE RAVE REVIEWS ARE IN FROM THE STARS THEMSELVES!* A wonderful, enriching, enlightening book for theater lovers of all ages . . . and all that jazz!" —CHITA RIVERA, two-time Tony Award-winning actress (*The Rink*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) "A to Z—awesome to zany—I'm thrilled to be a part of such an illustrious group." —CHRISTINE EBERSOLE, two-time Tony Award-winning actress (*42nd Street*, *Grey Gardens*) "I'm so honored to be included among these fierce ladies—brought to life with such fun illustrations—in this wonderful book for little divas like my own!" —LEA SALONGA, Tony Award-winning actress (*Miss Saigon*) "A is for Audra turns the alphabet song into a show stopper! It is literally a love letter to Broadway's leading ladies, and I am so honored to be memorialized alongside all of my sisters!" —RENÉE ELISE GOLDSBERRY, Tony Award-winning actress (*Hamilton*) "I'm honored to be included in this illustrious group. A to Z, they are all incredible!" —KRISTIN CHENOWETH, Tony Award-winning actress (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*) "What a fun and fabulous celebration of the females of Broadway! Imagine my joy just to be a part of it!" —KELLI O'HARA, Tony Award-winning actress (*The King and I*) "H is also for honored—because that's what I am to be included in this beautiful book. I can't wait to show my kids and tell them of all the brilliant leading ladies who have graced the Broadway stage." —HEATHER HEADLEY, Tony Award-winning actress (*Aida*) AND CRITICS LOVE IT TOO! "Women of the Broadway theater take center stage in this loving homage. . . . A lively introduction to a whole new cast of heroines."—Kirkus "this is a book all kids (and many adults) will enjoy as they learn about and fall in love with the theatre."—Playbill.com "A true necessity for any kid's bookshelf."—Entertainment Weekly "a thorough, eye-catching introduction to women of the theater. . . . budding theater lovers will get a thrill."—Booklist "A sure hit for thespians of all ages."—School Library Journal "Emmerich's flattering caricatures, paired with [Allman's] verse, are colorful and slick, bringing Broadway's drama to the page"—Publishers Weekly

*Stephen Sondheim* Stephen SondheimA Life

"A selection of lyrics from the musicals of the award-winning Stephen Sondheim, in the Everyman's Library Pocket Poets series"--