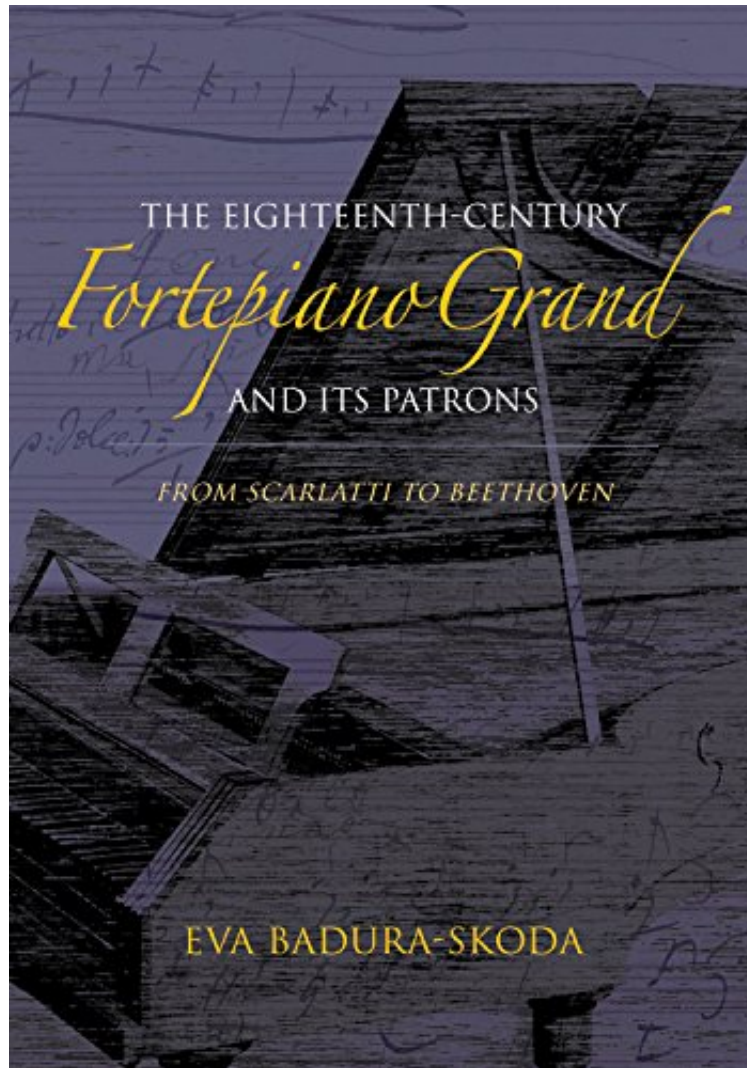


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# The Eighteenth-Century Fortepiano Grand and Its Patrons: From Scarlatti to Beethoven

*Eva Badura-Skoda*

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In the late 17th century, Italian musician and inventor Bartolomeo Cristofori developed a new musical instrumenthis

cembalo che fa il piano e forte, which allowed keyboard players flexible dynamic gradation. This innovation, which came to be known as the hammer-harpsichord or fortepiano grand, was slow to catch on in musical circles. However, as renowned piano historian Eva Badura-Skoda demonstrates, the instrument inspired new keyboard techniques and performance practices and was eagerly adopted by virtuosos of the age, including Scarlatti, J. S. Bach, Clementi, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Presenting a rich array of archival evidence, Badura-Skoda traces the construction and use of the fortepiano grand across the musical cultures of 18th-century Europe, providing a valuable resource for music historians, organologists, and performers.

About the Author Eva Badura-Skoda, noted musicologist, publishes extensively on the history of the piano and on performance practices of the 18th and 19th centuries. She is author of *The History of the Pianoforte: A Documentary in Sound* and coauthor (with Paul Badura-Skoda) of *Interpreting Mozart: The Performance of His Piano Works*.