



# Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music

By Blair Tindall

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**Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music** By Blair Tindall

In the tradition of Anthony Bourdain's *Kitchen Confidential* and Gelsey Kirkland's *Dancing on My Grave*, *Mozart in the Jungle* delves into the lives of the musicians and conductors who inhabit the insular world of classical music. In a book that inspired the Amazon Original series starring Gael García Bernal and Malcolm McDowell, oboist Blair Tindall recounts her decades-long professional career as a classical musician—from the recitals and Broadway orchestra performances to the secret life of musicians who survive hand to mouth in the backbiting New York classical music scene, where musicians trade sexual favors for plum jobs and assignments in orchestras across the city. Tindall and her fellow journeymen musicians often play drunk, high, or hopelessly hungover, live in decrepit apartments, and perform in hazardous conditions—working-class musicians who schlep across the city between low-paying gigs, without health-care benefits or retirement plans, a stark contrast to the rarefied experiences of overpaid classical musician superstars. An incisive, no-holds-barred account, *Mozart in the Jungle* is the first true, behind-the-scenes look at what goes on backstage and in the Broadway pit.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

By age 16, the author of this alternately piquant and morose memoir was dealing marijuana, bedding her instructors at a performing arts high school and studying the oboe. Later, her blossoming career as a freelance musician in New York introduced her to a classical music demimonde of cocaine parties and group sex that had her wondering why she "got hired for so many of my gigs in bed." But the vivace of the chapters on her bohemian salad days subsides to a largo as she heads toward 40 and the sex and drugs recede along with dreams of stardom; the reality of a future in Broadway orchestra pits (where she reads magazines as she plays to stave off boredom) sets in. Tindall escaped to journalism, but her resentment of an industry that "squeezed me dry of spontaneity" and turns other musicians into hollow-eyed "galley slaves" is raw. She mounts a biting critique of the conservatories that churn out thousands of graduates each year to pursue a handful of jobs, the superstar conductors and soloists who lord it over orchestral peons and a fine arts establishment she depicts as bloated and ripe for downsizing. Tindall's bitterness over what might still strike many readers as a pretty great career is a bit overdone, but she offers a fresh, highly readable and caustic perspective on an overglamorized world. Photos. *Agent, James Fitzgerald. (July)*

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From [The New Yorker](#)

For the author, an oboist and journalist, a certain Upper West Side apartment building, long popular with musicians, is a metaphor for classical music in America today: a Beaux-Arts façade masking an increasingly decrepit infrastructure. Tindall's book, her first, is hardly free of false notes. Paragraphs full of dire predictions and alarming statistics jibe a little too conveniently with her tales of professional disappointment and sexual promiscuity. As Tindall sleeps her way to the bottom, we learn more than we probably need to about the sex lives of some more or less prominent American musicians. But Tindall's central complaint—that the classical-music world has created a crisis by training too many musicians and supporting a culture of exorbitant pay for a few fortunate stars—is difficult to refute.

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### Review

"A disturbing, fact-filled portrait of American musical life that is both humorous and human." -- *Composer William Bolcom, 1988 Pulitzer Prize for music*

"Blair Tindall blows the lid off the world of classical music... a must-read for anyone concerned about the arts." -- *Dale Maharidge, 1990 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction*

"Mozart in the Jungle is a remarkably candid and courageous book." -- *Margot Livesay, author of Banishing Verona*

"Mozart in the Jungle is funny, startling, heartbreaking, informative, and utterly absorbing. Blair Tindall writes like an angel." -- *Lee Smith, author of The Last Girls*

"No book before this has so accurately captured the harrowing life of the free-lance artist." -- *William Moriarity, former president, Local 802 American Federation of Musicians*

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#### **Betty Adkins:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you this specific Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Lisa Maurer:**

The particular book Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was published by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research just before write this book. That book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

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#### **Frances Barrett:**

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