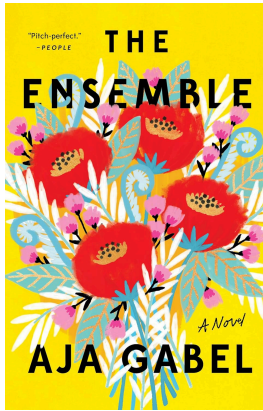


Musical Motifs:

Read a story featuring fictional or real symphony musicians or real composers, or plots deeply intertwined with music:

The Ensemble by Aja Gabel

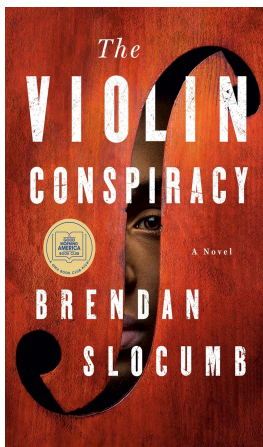
Libby e-book & e-audio



Brit is the second violinist, a beautiful and quiet orphan; on the viola is Henry, a prodigy who's always had it easy; the cellist is Daniel, the oldest and an angry skeptic who sleeps around; and on first violin is Jana, their flinty, resilient leader. Together, they are the Van Ness Quartet. After the group's youthful, rocky start, they experience devastating failure and wild success, heartbreak and marriage, triumph and loss, betrayal and enduring loyalty. They are always tied to each other - by career, by the intensity of their art, by the secrets they carry, by choosing each other over and over again.

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

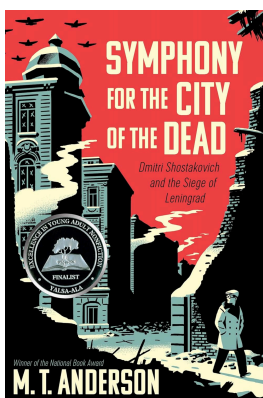
F Sloc, Libby e-book & e-audio



Growing up Black in rural North Carolina, Ray McMillian's life is already mapped out. But Ray has a gift and is determined to become a world-class professional violinist, and nothing will stand in his way. Not his unsupportive mother and not the fact that he can't afford a violin suitable to his talents. When he discovers that his beat-up, family fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, all his dreams suddenly seem within reach. But on the eve of Tchaikovsky Competition he discovers the violin is stolen, a ransom note for five million dollars left in its place. As the competition approaches, Ray must not only reclaim his precious violin, but prove to himself—and the world—that no matter the outcome, there has always been a truly great musician within him.

Symphony for the City of the Dead by M.T. Anderson

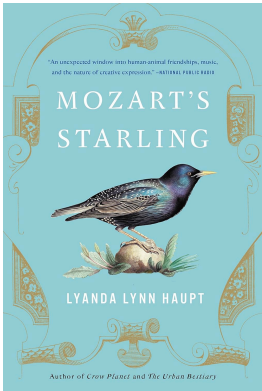
Libby and hoopla e-book



Trapped between the Nazi invading force and the Soviet government itself was composer Dmitri Shostakovich, writing a symphony to rouse, rally, eulogize, and commemorate his fellow citizens: the Leningrad Symphony. This is the true story of a city under siege, the triumph of bravery and defiance in the face of terrifying odds. It is also a look at the power—and layered meaning—of music in beleaguered lives.

Mozart's Starling by Lyanda Lynn Haupt

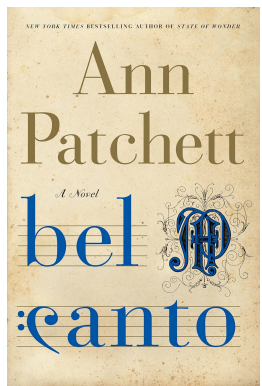
Bio Mozart Wolfgang Amadeus, Libby e-audio, hoopla e-book & e-audio



Naturalist Lyanda Lynn Haupt intertwines the story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's pet starling with Haupt's own experience raising a rescued starling. The book explores the unlikely bond between the composer and his bird, which influenced his music, and contrasts this with the modern-day perception of starlings as an invasive species. It is a blend of natural history, biography, and memoir that examines human-animal friendships, creativity, and our relationship with nature.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

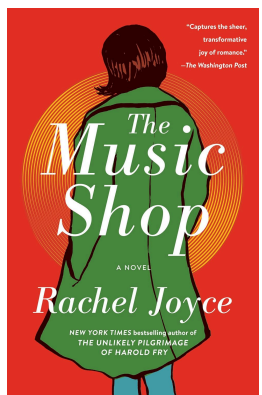
F Patc, Libby and hoopla e-book & e-audio



Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman Mr. Hosokawa. Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening-until a band of gun-wielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different, a moment of great beauty, as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds and people from different continents become compatriots, intimate friends, and lovers.

The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce

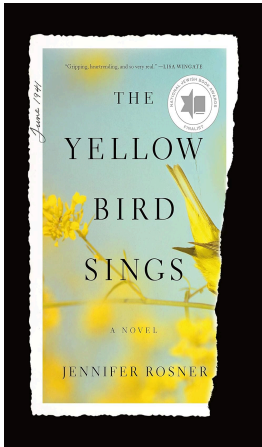
F Joyc, Libby e-book & e-audio



It's 1988. Frank owns a music shop. Classical, jazz, punk - as long as it's vinyl, he sells it. Day after day, Frank finds his customers the music they need. Then into his life walks Ilse, who asks Frank to teach her about music. His instinct is to turn and run, and yet he is drawn to this mysterious woman. But Ilse is not what she seems. And Frank has old wounds that threaten to reopen and a past he will never leave behind. A novel about learning how to listen and how to feel and choosing to be brave despite the odds. Because in the end, music can save us all....

The Yellow Bird Sings by Jennifer Rosner

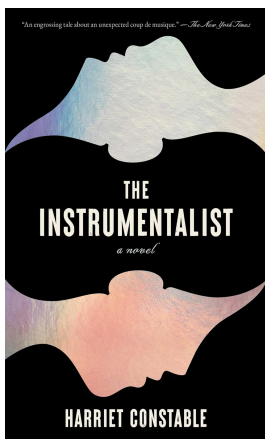
F Rosn, Libby and hoopla e-book & e-audio



In wartime Poland, a mother hides with her young daughter, a musical prodigy whose smallest sound could betray them. As Nazi soldiers seize the Jews in their town, Róza and 5-year-old Shira take refuge in a neighbor's barn, spending their days and nights silent in the hayloft. Shira battles to stay still as music thrums inside her, so Róza comforts her with a story: a girl in an enchanted garden who cannot make a sound, and a yellow bird who sings the music she imagines—piccolo trills, contrabassoon growls, melodies that help flowers bloom. In this imagined world, Róza shields her child from the terror outside. But when danger closes in, she faces an unbearable choice: keep Shira close or send her away in hopes she might survive.

The Instrumentalist by Harriet Constable

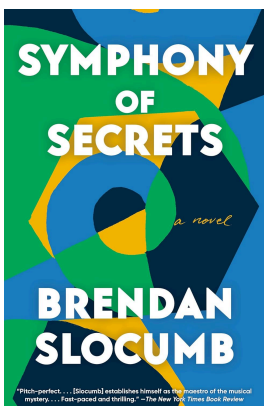
Libby e-book & e-audio



Anna Maria has only known life inside the Pietà, an orphanage for children born of prostitutes. But the girls of the Pietà are lucky in a sense: most babies born of their station were drowned in the city's canals. And despite the strict rules, the girls are given singing and music lessons from an early age. The most promising musicians have the chance to escape the fate of the rest: forced marriage to anyone who will have them. Anna Maria is determined to be the best violinist there is. But it is 1704 and she is a girl. The pursuit of her ambition will test everything she holds dear, especially when it becomes clear that her instructor, Antonio Vivaldi, will teach Anna everything he knows—but not without taking something in return.

Symphony of Secrets by Brendan Slocumb

F Sloc, Libby e-audio



Music professor Bern Hendricks discovers a shocking secret about the most famous American composer of all time—his music may have been stolen from a Black Jazz Age prodigy named Josephine Reed. Determined to uncover the truth that a powerful organization wants to keep hidden, Bern will stop at nothing to right history's wrongs and give Josephine the recognition she deserves.