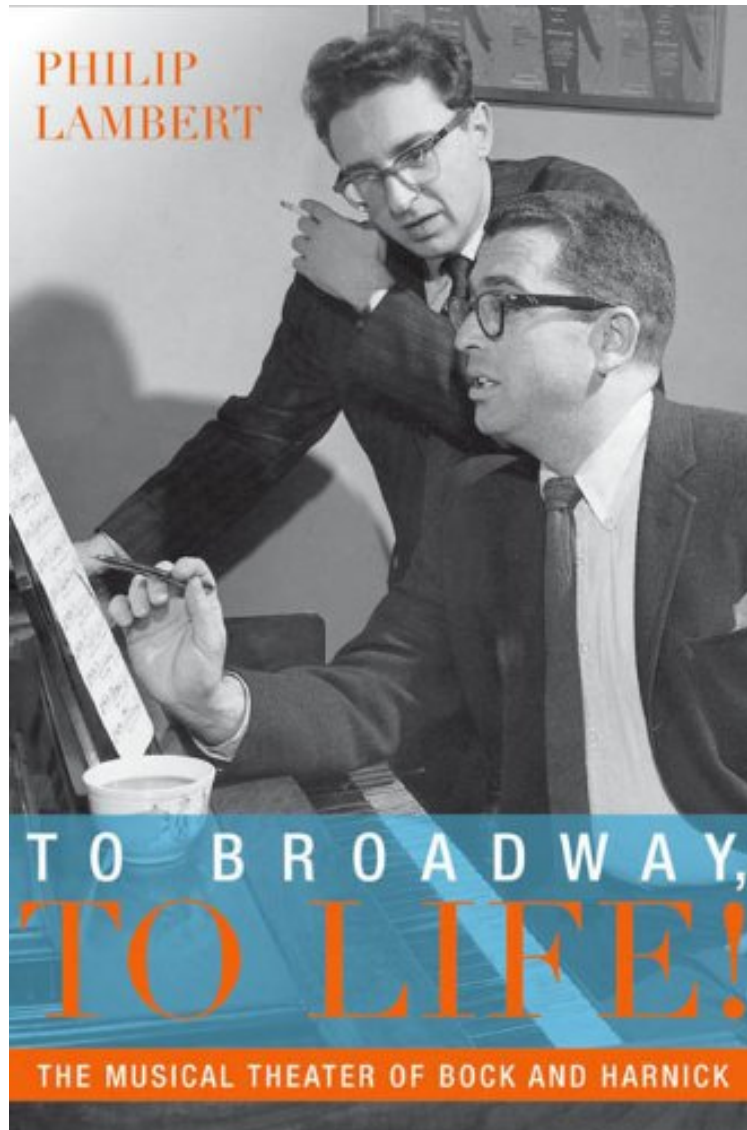


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Philip Lambert

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Philip Lambert : To Broadway, To Life!: The Musical Theater of Bock and Harnick (Broadway Legacies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Broadway, To Life!: The Musical Theater of Bock and Harnick (Broadway Legacies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent book, very musically thoroughBy John W. WatsonBeing a music and theater teacher, these fine musical composers are close to my heart. This book is a very thorough look into their professional theater writing experiences throughout their careers.It helps a tremendous amount if you are

knowledgable in music theory as it discusses modes, chord progressions and other concepts that the average theater fan or even music fan probably won't be aware of. My only complaints are the lack of coverage of their personal lives. There was a very small mention of their wives and where they met in a picture caption. Also, there was a lot of detail about the reviews of the shows. I think some of the material could have been changed or cut to make it truly about the composers and their contributions to the musical theater world. Overall, an excellent resource for the works of these musical geniuses! 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Exhaustively researched portrait of a great songwriting team By Robert Armin Perhaps the greatest blow to the music theater (after the early death of George Gershwin) has been the break-up of the songwriting team of Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick in 1970. This book delves exhaustively into their professional careers (both together and apart) and Lambert's lists of songs, recordings, shows and other career highlights in the back of the book are extraordinarily detailed and invaluable. Lambert clearly knows a lot about music, but his knowledge of musical theater seems to come more from research than from personal experience (he calls cast albums "soundtracks") and there are a few minor errors when his source material is inaccurate or wrong, but overall the book is quite reliable. The chapter notes indicate a tremendous number and variety of sources including personal input from both Harnick and Bock (there are even attributed quotes from my own 2002 online interview with Harnick!). It's unlikely we will ever see a more thorough career portrait of these two brilliant talents, so I recommend the book highly to anyone with even the slightest interest in the musical theater or the craft of songwriting. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book with some minor exceptions By Scott E. Miller This is a mostly excellent survey and analysis of the fascinating work of Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock, the last great practitioners of the Rodgers and Hammerstein model. The musical analyses get a little overly-involved sometimes, focusing on a lot of things that aren't all that important. But most of the book is really a terrific read and full of great insights and behind-the-scenes information. The only real criticism I have is that there are a lot of little errors throughout the book that make it clear Lambert hasn't seen these shows. Just one example: Lambert writes that in the first act of "The Apple Tree," Adam and Eve get thrown out of Eden, not because she ate the apple but because he tells bad jokes. This is indeed what the Snake tells Eve in the script, but if Lambert had ever actually seen the show, he would know this is a lie the Snake tells Eve to get her to eat the apple. I found at least a dozen errors like this -- they don't ruin the book, but it is a shame...

To Broadway, To Life! The Musical Theater of Bock and Harnick is the first complete book about these creative figures, one of Broadway's most important songwriting teams. The book draws from personal interviews with Bock and Harnick themselves to offer an in-depth exploration their shows, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *She Loves Me*, and *Fiorello!*, and their greater place in musical theater history.

"Never before has the biographer of a great songwriting team enjoyed the full cooperation of both his subjects. As a result, Philip Lambert's *To Broadway, To Life! The Musical Theater of Bock and Harnick* teems with rich detail, wonderful anecdotes, and astute insights into that most fascinating of artistic endeavors--the creation of a Broadway musical." --Philip Furia, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, and author of *The Poets of Tin Pan Alley: A History of America's Greatest Lyricists* "Philip Lambert's book offers fascinating insights into Bock and Harnick's musical creations, their geneses, inner workings, reception histories, and revivals. An important contribution to American musical theater scholarship." --William Everett, University of Missouri-Kansas City, contributing co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Musical* "Lambert eloquently reminds us that Bock and Harnick were much more than a single-hit sensation. This long overdue study gives their all-too-brief collaboration the serious treatment it deserves and in the process enriches our understanding of the traditional book musical during its last hurrah. Lambert helps us to contextualize *Fiddler on the Roof* within Bock and Harnick's career, which includes the Pulitzer-Prize-winning *Fiorello* and *She Loves Me*, the musical that other Broadway composers wished they had written." --James Leve, Northern Arizona University, and author of *Kander and Ebb* "A valuable account...Recommended." --Choice "Well written and well documented...This volume is as valuable as a resource on Broadway history as it is on the subjects themselves...It advances the scholarship on the musical during one of its most crucial periods." --Notes "[Lambert] not only provides a vivid portrait of one of Broadway's most important and beloved teams, he also brings to life the process of constructing a score for the integrated book musicals of mid-century. *To Broadway, To Life!* is one more way the vital new Oxford University Press series, *Broadway Legacies*, is enlarging the field of musical theater studies." --Musica Judaica Online s "Never before has the biographer of a great songwriting team enjoyed the full cooperation of both his subjects. As a result, Philip Lambert's *To Broadway, To Life! The Musical Theater of Bock and Harnick* teems with rich detail, wonderful anecdotes, and astute insights into that most fascinating of artistic endeavors--the creation of a Broadway musical." --Philip Furia, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, and author of *The Poets of Tin Pan Alley: A History of America's Greatest Lyricists* "Philip Lambert's book offers fascinating insights into Bock and Harnick's musical creations, their geneses, inner workings, reception histories, and revivals. An important contribution to American musical theater scholarship." --William Everett, University of Missouri-Kansas City, contributing co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Musical* "Lambert eloquently

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About the Author Philip Lambert has published widely on twentieth-century music of diverse styles and traditions. His previous books are *The Music of Charles Ives* (1997), *Ives Studies* (1997), and *Inside the Music of Brian Wilson* (2007). He is Professor of Music at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.