



Amazon.com reviews - 2012-2017

5.0 out of 5 stars

Shining Light review

ByWalter Eckon March 30, 2017

Great presentation of composer and wonderful music and scenery .

5.0 out of 5 stars

Morten Lauridsen is a national treaure. As a musician ...

ByLeah Holbrookon January 1, 2017

Morten Lauridsen is a national treaure. As a musician who has performed his music I know first hand the prayerful and centering power it brings. Give yourself a true gift and watch this film.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Shining Night: A Portrait of Morten Lauridsen. A must have for any choral singer who has ever sung his music.

By Alice O. Thomason November 12, 2016

This is a beautiful DVD in every way. The music and photography are exquisite, and Morton Lauridsen shares himself and his life story with grace and humor.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Timeless..... ethereal... ..

By John Pender-Cudlipon September 19, 2016

Timeless ethereal genius

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

By Martha T. Johnstone on April 21, 2016

A beautiful production.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Interesting life

By Barbara Gadwood on March 2, 2016

Interesting life of an amazing composer.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

By Amazon Customer on November 21, 2015

Excellent! Photography, scenery, story, music are spectacular! Lauridsen is a treasure!

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

ByTerri Glasson September 28, 2015

Stunning film, both visually and the content is very moving.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

Byhippomanon June 3, 2015

A stunning portrait of one of the geniuses of our time.

5.0 out of 5 stars

So moving. For anyone who loves choral music. ...

ByMari Fallonon May 17, 2015

So moving. For anyone who loves choral music. Even my friends who don't are mesmerized by this dvd and Lauridsen's music. Am going to buy more and give out as gifts!

5.0 out of 5 stars

Gorgeous portrait of Morten Lauridsen

ByIngepigeon March 28, 2015

What a find. Morten Lauridsen is magnificent and so is this movie.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Just get it!

ByLirpa63on March 8, 2015

Beautiful...just beautiful. I live near Waldren, so I appreciated the beauty of the area. Then to add his music & story telling. AMAZING!!! I've shown this to friends

who don't like choral music & they stole my copy. We played this for a room full of semi-famous, hyper-critical singer/songwriter types & they just wept.

5.0 out of 5 stars

His music is wonderful. It takes you to the San Juan's

By Donna Brination February 11, 2015

His music is wonderful. It takes you to the San Juan's, telling you of its beauty, sounds and makes you feel relaxed and a part of it. Outstanding presentation.

5.0 out of 5 stars

... one for ourselves and thought it would be a great gift for 2 friends

By Shannonon January 31, 2015

Bought one for ourselves and thought it would be a great gift for 2 friends. They both thought so, too. A success!

5.0 out of 5 stars

We are so fortunate to live in the age of this composer...

By Mary VanCotton January 29, 2015

I thoroughly enjoyed this special inside view of this amazing modern-day composer. Seeing where he lives, hearing what inspires him, and having the opportunity to hear his pieces performed by top-notch groups makes this a most wonderful viewing experience. When it was over, I realized I just wanted to walk along the beach with him and listen to just about anything he wants to say. Calming, peaceful, entertaining and especially interesting to anyone who loves beautiful music and a great story to go with it.

5.0 out of 5 stars

That most of his music came to life on an antique 50 Dollar Steinway is a wonderful thought.

By Ulla Birkvedon January 21, 2015

I have watched Shining Night many times and can watch it again and again. That

most of his music came to life on an antique 50 Dollar Steinway is a wonderful thought.

Morten Lauridsen with his Danish background coming from a small Danish island I can almost hear the Viking blood role in his veins and music. I love it.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Must have for Lauridsen fans.

ByAngela Frenchon January 17, 2015

Extraordinary composer.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

ByKristin Hurdon January 13, 2015

A beautiful documentary. It will inspire anyone, just beautiful.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

ByTheresa Wileson December 15, 2014

Beautiful documentary about this remarkable composer. A national treasure.

5.0 out of 5 stars

An Opening into the Cosmos at Large

ByBokononeron December 7, 2014

A triple treat, this DVD is worth repeated viewings as a travelogue, as a character study, and as an important bit of music history. Choral music has never been high on my personal list of favorite experiences--until now. Morten Lauridsen's quiet competence and creativity have won me over. He communicates equally effectively in words, with piano, by presence and gesture, and above all in his music which deeply connects into traditions of harmony and communal experience while preserving an innovative voice. Highest praise.

5.0 out of 5 stars

this film brilliantly captures Dr

ByMaestroon December 5, 2014

A look into the life of one the most beloved and performed choral composers, this film brilliantly captures Dr. Lauridsen's love and passion for nature. Set on the island where he spends his summer composing, we catch a glimpse into Lauridsen's creative process and hear him share his own philosophy of music, especially choral music. I am anxiously awaiting the sequel to this award winning film.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

ByPresnedon December 4, 2014

A wonderful dvd about an amazing composer, Morten Lauridsen.
You will love it!

I am so happy to share this video with my friends who have ...

Byjane tuckon November 24, 2014

I am so happy to share this video with my friends who have never heard of Morten Lauridsen . He is a Washington neighbor who shares the mysteries of the northwest and can translate this into musical language that moves my heart...and the visuals are breathtaking.

5.0 out of 5 stars

An absolutely stunning portrait of the man and his music ...

ByJohn Terryon November 24, 2014

An absolutely stunning portrait of the man and his music. He is a true genius and an American treasure.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Great Movie

ByTim Son November 19, 2014

I've watched this movie a dozen times already and still not tired of it. The music is awesome, the camera work is wonderful and some of the scenery is incredible. Easily in my top 10 all time greats. (I'm a huge fan of choral music).

5.0 out of 5 stars

Goodness, Truth and Beauty all contained in the Portrait ...

ByMargaret M. Tobinon October 30, 2014

Goodness, Truth and Beauty all contained in the Portrait of Morten Lauridsen. This and his music calms the spirit and enlivens the soul!

5.0 out of 5 stars

over the moon happy

ByQuestfulon October 3, 2014

This is my 4th purchase...wish everyone could enjoy it

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

ByMV McGrathon September 29, 2014

Fabulous. I'm going to order several more

5.0 out of 5 stars

Let your light so shine

Byjustanothashmoon August 13, 2014

Loved it reawakened the wondrous experiences I'd had performing many of the works contained within (most of which are in fact on my iPod playlists).

5.0 out of 5 stars

A Beautiful Film about Lauridsen and his Sublime Music

By Deborah Rose on August 5, 2014

In June I attended a lunchtime concert by the choir of Lincoln Cathedral, visiting from England, at Trinity Church in Boston. As their encore they performed Lauridsen's *Magnum Mysterium*. I was utterly moved that humans can create such beauty and left the church in tears. That night I researched Morten Lauridsen on Amazon. I had heard his *Magnum Mysterium* sung in church before, but it had sounded as if it had existed for centuries (as when a contemporary songwriter writes a song that sounds like a folk song that has been passed down for ages); I had not realized before that it was written by a contemporary American composer.

The film is hauntingly beautiful and as inspirational as anything I have seen. I am thinking especially of the scenes of Waldron Island in the Pacific Northwest, Lauridsen's beloved place, when the camera pans over the darkening sea and sky as "Shining Night" is sung. These seascapes remind me of my own beloved place, coastal Maine, where I also feel connected to the cosmic happenings over the bay, day and night, sunrise and sunset and moonrise, the daily and the eternal.

This music reaches into my soul, as it seems to do for people all around the world. I will watch this film over and over. It corrects the perspective and puts one in touch with what is really important. If the world is too much with you, watch it and feel uplifted to a higher plane. I have already shown it and lent the DVD to others I care about.

I will add that, although the film has Morten Lauridsen talking about composing his music and shows him sitting at the piano and in his composing cabin working, it is still a mystery how he actually does it--the moment of creation. He seems to reach high and deep into the mysteries of human life in this world, the cosmos even. I am in awe, and I am so glad I discovered this film.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Love it

By Nehalem Dave on July 26, 2014

Wonderful

5.0 out of 5 stars

Five Stars

By Cynthia Milleron July 24, 2014

ethereal

5.0 out of 5 stars

Insights into the soul and mind of Morten Lauridsen

By Cynthia L. Nicholson May 8, 2014

After listening to as much of his music as possible, it was wonderful to be able to see the background and genesis of Morten Lauridsen's choral writing.

5.0 out of 5 stars

OUTSTANDING

By Lois B. Krameron April 30, 2014

A wonderful DVD about a great musician. The photography is excellent, the back story is grand and the music is outstanding.

5.0 out of 5 stars

An exceptional video

By Dana Gartneron February 20, 2014

This video is beautifully constructed--scenes of the Pacific Northwest, the inspiration and genius of the composer, and music more touching than you can imagine. I am a classical musician, singer, and pianist of many years who appreciates silence and space, and I love the rare music that allows for this. My experience is that Morten Lauridsen's music is special in this way. Watching and listening to the video itself instill peace and well-being. I have now ordered more copies for friends.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Fabulous

ByAnnon January 30, 2014

This is an inspiring story. It takes you into the life of a living composer and introduces you to his gorgeous hypnotic music. It shows you where he composes on a beachfront facing Alaska. I've given this as a gift to most of my friends that have any appreciation for music.

3.0 out of 5 stars

suggestivo racconto del processo creativo di un genio / striking picture of the creative process of a genius

ByAmazon Customeron January 24, 2014

Immagini molto suggestive dei luoghi che hanno ispirato a Lauridsen i suoi più grandi capolavori. Avrei voluto però che avessero dato maggiore spazio all'analisi dei brani stessi e non solo all'idea di fondo. In ogni caso, lo consiglio molto a tutti gli appassionati di musica corale contemporanea.

Very suggestive images of the places that have inspired Lauridsen's greatest masterpieces. I wished, however, that they had given greater consideration to the structure of the songs themselves and not only the inspiring idea. Anyway, I recommend it highly to all lovers of contemporary choral music.

4.0 out of 5 stars

Splendid

ByJohn K Higgins Jr on January 8, 2014

Morton Lauridsen's choral music is beautiful beyond description. The interviews in this documentary give some insight into this composer's thought. The solitary beauty of the island in Puget Sound where he spends much of the year is clearly inspirational. We enjoyed this short biography immensely.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Excellent Portrayal of an Important Personality In Our Time

ByEPon January 7, 2014

The DVD is very well produced and filmed. Lauridsen's personality and work is beautifully portrayed with wonderful interviews with composers, conductors who have performed his music. The music is good medicine for our time.

5.0 out of 5 stars

GREAT ONE

ByAlice Baueron December 31, 2013

I had already seen and recorded this video from PBS TV. Loved it SO much I wanted a copy of my own that I could take around and share with others. I also bought a copy as a Xmas present for my choir director.

The documentary is a magical experience!!!

4.0 out of 5 stars

A must for Lauridsen devotees and/or those who appreciate contemplative music

ByGraham Mon October 16, 2013

A revelation! I've long been a devotee of Lauridsen's music and own several CDs (with multiple awe-inspiring performances amongst them) of his breathtaking works. But this film, with its presentation of an in-depth portrait of the heart and mind of the man behind the works, in its simultaneous complexity of thought and simplicity of spirit, along with his discussion of the inspiration behind his music, extends an entirely new dimension by and through which the man and his music may be understood and appreciated. I was both humbled and inspired watching the composer in his austere but contemplative environment. The interviews with friends and associates were a bit too truncated for my taste (though at least some omitted material was re-inserted in the bonus features). For those who like their music on the heavenly side, and can find inspiration in understanding its creation a bit better, this film is a must.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Shining Night Video Does Composer Morten Lauridsen Justice

By Linda L. Simmonson October 5, 2013

Morten "Skip" Lauridsen never disappoints. I've had the pleasure of singing much of his music and at one of our concerts, he even accompanied us on several of his pieces. The only thing I would like to have seen on this video were segments of him working directly with Paul Salamunovich and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, since he was their composer-in-residence during the Salamunovich era (1991-2001). Other than that, purchasing and viewing the video was money and time well spent in order to get a glimpse into his private world that inspires his creations. Five Stars!

5.0 out of 5 stars

for a peek into the universe

By CST of Asheville on October 2, 2013

We wonder how geniuses create their particular art form--and Morten Lauridsen gives us truly a peek into the universe. His talent guides him into artistic expression that beckons all of us to love and treasure the world before us and beyond us. I have watched this movie (a piece of art in itself); I have sung many of his works in choruses; and I have felt myself transported to a peaceful place--the place where I think the Almighty intended all of us to be in our short time on this earth.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Most Moving Experience

By Bargain shopper on August 9, 2013

This DVD is one of the most moving I have watched.. inspirational and yet tranquil. Such a gifted composer and yet seemingly so humble. I have watched this 4 times in 2 weeks. I have given this as a gift to several friends who are going through difficult health problems.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Shining Night - Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen

By Marcia C. Hamilton on July 29, 2013

Morten Lairidsen is an awesome composer and the story of his music is enthralling, wonderfully videographed, and the music is absolutely beautiful, touching, and inspiring.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Pauline

ByPauline Crawfordon July 24, 2013

A peek inside a masterful modern composer of choral music. Sacred without being preachy ---transcends orthodoxy. And the scenery is beautiful too--- perfect setting for the music.

5.0 out of 5 stars

beautiful music!

Bypedalpushinmamaon June 5, 2013

I think anyone can appreciate the beautiful music contained in this cd, but what I also loved was the story of this man's life, and what inspires his music. I loved it, and will watch it again and again.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Shining Night brings clear Light and Love

ByPatti Nyienon May 23, 2013

The beautiful choral music will bring tears to your eyes. This documentary is so informative and beautiful, it is a must see. The scenematic photography is breath taking. The story line is interesting and well detailed. A tale of seclusion and tapping the God - given gifts within the soul of man are the gripping moments that make the glorious music soar. Much has gone into the creative process. The movie presents the work and integrity behind some of the world's best loved choral music by a living composer of our time. It shows the small community that embraces their composer and helps him produce these works. We travel to magnificent cathedrals to hear choral renditions. We see the beautiful Island habitat of the composer and learn how his piano came to dwell with him.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Lovely film and person

ByLuceroon April 22, 2013

I really enjoyed this film. Morten Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna" is one of my favorite works. After seeing the documentary I came away with even more admiration. His music is sublime and he is a very spiritual, yet down to earth person. I would recommend this documentary to those that enjoy his music or choral music in general, and for those that revere the arts and the simple things in life. The footage of the islands and the importance of tranquility and nature are featured in this documentary.

5.0 out of 5 stars

A mystical documentary about a mystical composer

Byjwilon April 21, 2013

Morten Lauridsen is the foremost American choral composer of this century. His music is mystical and perfectly wedded to the text, evoking the deepest expressions of the human heart. In this documentary Michael Stillwater is actually able to capture the essence of Lauridsen's music, emphasizing the connection between the music and the composer's beloved island. When I performed Lux Aeterna, I heard the gentle lapping of the water surrounding his island home; I saw in my mind's eye the misty skies that stretch out from the shore. Morten's description of his profound love of place makes clear the mental picture he envisioned as he composed his music. This documentary captures the workings of his creative mind.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Top Notch documentary!

ByJim Lebherzon March 3, 2013

An astonishing piece of work concerning a talented individual. Photography was outstanding and the scenery and subject matter was exquisite.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Sublime - I can watch over and over and continue to be inspired

By K. S. Lawrence on February 16, 2013

It is hard to put into words what I experienced in this film. (that is why we have music after all). There are so many levels of excellence here. First of all, this first time filmmaker has made a lovely documentary. It has the qualities one looks for in a documentary. He allows us to get to know his subject, informing and inspiring us. But the style of filmmaking is a work of art comparable to the artistry of Morten Lauridsen. The film feels like a symphony, weaving in and out of musical/visual motifs. This is perhaps not surprising, because the Michael Stillwater is a talented musical composer in his own right, which is why I was first drawn to the film. And maybe it took another musician to bring the enchanting music of Mr. Lauridsen into a visual work of art.

Morten Lauridsen is one of America's treasures. The Wall St. Journal called him the "best composer you've never heard of" and describes his music as "radiantly beautiful". He has been described as a mystic, but the film shows him also as a man, a nature lover, an artist, a teacher, conductor, performer, and lover of poetry, art, and all things beautiful. This music, that if I had to find words describe, I would use, mystical, transcendent, romantic, sumptuous, moving, even inspiring, is interwoven in the film with pictures of the life of Mr. Lauridsen, many interviews with him and other musicians. There are beautiful shots of Scotland and his stark home on a tiny island off the coast of Washington, where he lives for the half of the year that he is not teaching at USC.

I always find it fascinating to watch documentaries about artists. I am a musician, and getting a little bit inside the head of a creative genius is always inspiring to me.

I was lucky enough to see a screening of the film which preceded a concert of Lauridsen's music sung by the USC Chamber singers and accompanied on two songs by the composer on the piano. I was left speechless for days, swimming in the ecstasy of the kind of music that you are sure comes from angelic realms. If you have an opportunity to hear Mr Lauridsen's music performed live, do indeed rush to do so. But don't miss out on the experience of this film. It will allow you to bathe all of your senses in a work of art, and learn about a really fascinating genius composer at the same time.

5.0 out of 5 stars

A vision of the Amen.

ByShibbolethon November 13, 2012

Lauridsen makes music that touches heaven - a glimpse of the Old One's faces. This DVD makes the master human. Please acquire this remarkable DVD, but only after you have amassed for your library his music.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Guest Composer

ByJoshua S. Gutierrezon September 6, 2012

First off, this isn't a review about "Shining Night" however, it is about the Composer - Morten Lauridsen. Working on my Music Composition degree at Washington State University, Pullman - back in 2002 (I believe - It's been a long long time...lol) Dr. Lauridsen happened to be our Guest Composer for that particular year.

And I remember sitting within the first few rows of our biggest theater in just total awe listening to our Madrigal singer's group performing some of his most renowned choral songs. As i'm sure, at least for those who are familiar with his work, O Magnum Mysterium & Ubi Caritas ET Amor - just brought me to tears...Until then, I had never experienced a performance so powerful and moving. It was then I decided I was going to pursue my degree in music composition.

I had the chance to meet Dr. Lauridsen back then...and an honor it was - Something to be cherished.

Like I mentioned, this isn't a review about "Shining Night"...however, I would suggest for newer listeners - check out: Lauridsen - Lux Aeterna (Los Angeles Master Chorale, Paul Salamunovich's...The cover looks like trees with heavy cloud cover - kind of maroonish looking) & Lauridsen - Northwest Journey.

I met a professor who called his work "Too Simple." I couldn't believe it. He put it - Although his music is touching, it's like he used all the Pretty Notes. (Music majors will understand that reference - kind of like using the "People's Key (c major)" for all of your compositions.

I'm sorry to keep rambling on...Please purchase these cd's. I have absolutely no affiliation with Amazon or with Dr. Lauridsen, however, his music touched me in a way I'll never forget!

5.0 out of 5 stars

Extremely inspirational

ByBriosoon August 30, 2012

I am a singer and have sung many of Lauridsen's choral compositions over the years. I was always inspired by his works but had little knowledge of the composer before watching the DVD "Shinning night" The producer of the DVD did a brilliant job. He explains who Lauridsen is and where he gets his inspiration for his wonderful compositions. To say I was utterly inspired by the DVD is an understatement. It was so moving it left me spellbound. Every singer should watch this inspirational DVD.

5.0 out of 5 stars

superlative choral music

Byjoan fitzgeraldon July 12, 2012

This is a magnificent portrait of the man and his music.A must buy for those who appreciate melodic choral music.Laurisden recieved the presidential medal of honor in 2004.His music is performed all over the world