

“Wolitzer’s social commentary can be as funny as it is queasily on target.”
The Wall Street Journal

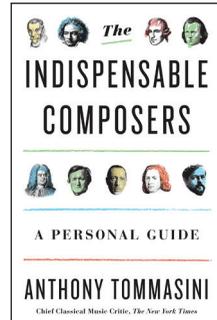
“Equal parts cotton candy and red meat, in the best way.”
People Magazine
Top 10 Books of 2018

“One of those rare writers who creates droll and entertaining novels of ideas.”
Fresh Air, NPR

“Strikes at the third-rail topics of our times with the surety and sharpness of an arrow shot by an expert archer.”
USA Today Top 10 Books of 2018

“Ultra-readable.”
Vogue

“[Wolitzer’s] love of her characters shines more brightly than any agenda.”
New York Times Notable Book of 2018



“[Tommasini] defends the value of distinguishing the great from the merely good ... perfectly fulfills its aim.”
Phillip Lopate, New York Times Book Review

“A must for musicians and music lovers alike.”
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Entertaining, highly enthusiastic, and very knowledgeable, he’s the perfect guide [to the great composers].”
Kirkus

“Insightful ... an engrossing study that will appeal to both classical music aficionados and novice listeners.”
Publishers Weekly

“A pianist himself, Tommasini infuses his essays with insights from a lifetime of playing and listening.”
San Francisco Chronicle

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MEG WOLITZER

The Female Persuasion
(Riverhead Books, 2018)



Photo by Nina Subin

Meg Wolitzer is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the novels *The Interestings*, *The Uncoupling*, *The Ten-Year Nap*, *The Position*, *The Wife* (the basis for the 2017 film starring Glenn Close), *This is My Life* and *Sleepwalking*, as well as two books for young readers. Her short fiction has been published in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*. Wolitzer often writes about the challenges facing aspiring artists and American gender politics through the decades.

In her newest best seller *The Female Persuasion*, Wolitzer's theme is female friendship and mentorship. We all yearn to be admired by someone we admire—the private, electrifying pleasure of being singled out by someone of esteem. But sometimes it can also mean entry to a new kind of life, a bigger world. Wolitzer delivers a charming and wise novel about power and influence, ego and loyalty, womanhood and ambition. At its heart, *The Female Persuasion* is about the flame we all believe is flickering inside of us, waiting to be seen and fanned by the right person at the right time.

A faculty member of the MFA program at Stony Brook Southampton, Wolitzer was also a guest artist in the Princeton University Atelier program in September 2013. She was born in Brooklyn and raised in Syosset, and is the daughter of novelist Hilma Wolitzer (a Book & Author Luncheon speaker in 1989). She studied creative writing at Smith College and graduated from Brown University in 1981. She lives in New York City with her family.

ANTHONY TOMMASINI

The Indispensable Composers: A Personal Guide
(Penguin Press, 2018)



Anthony Tommasini is the Chief Classical Music Critic for *The New York Times* and the author of four books. His interest in the work of the composer and critic Virgil Thomson culminated in the biography *Virgil Thomson: Composer on the Aisle*. A talented pianist in his own right, Tommasini made two recordings on the Northeastern Records label of Thomson's music, *Portraits and Self-Portraits* and *Mostly About Love: Songs and Vocal Works*. Both were funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. He also wrote *Opera: A Critic's Guide to the 100 Most Important Works and the Best Recordings*.

When he began to listen to the great works of classical music as a child, Tommasini had many questions. Why did a particular piece move him? How did the music work? Now in *The Indispensable Composers*, he offers his own personal guide to the canon—and what greatness really means in classical music—drawing on elements of biography, the anxiety of influence, the composer's relationships with colleagues, and shifting attitudes toward a composer's work over time.

Born in Brooklyn, Tommasini grew up on Long Island and graduated from Yale University in 1970. He earned a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University. He has taught music at Emerson College, and given nonfiction writing workshops at Wesleyan University and Brandeis University. He lives in Manhattan with his husband, Dr. Benjamin McCommon, a psychiatrist.

SUSAN ISAACS

Program Moderator



Susan Isaacs was dubbed “Jane Austen with a shmear” by NPR's book critic. Among her thirteen best-selling novels are *Lily White*, *Shining Through* and *After All These Years*. She has written screenplays for two films: *Compromising Positions*, an adaptation of her novel, and *Hello Again*. She also has one nonfiction work to her credit, *Brave Dames and Wimpettes: What Women are Really Doing on Page and Screen*. Before she took to books, she was an editor at *Seventeen* magazine and a freelance political speechwriter.

An alumna of Queens College, Isaacs currently chairs the board of directors of the literary organization Poets & Writers. She is past president of Mystery Writers of America and belongs to the National Book Critics Circle, PEN, and the International Association of Crime Writers. Among her honors are the John Steinbeck Award, the Writers for Writers award, and the Marymount Manhattan Writing Center prize.

Her most recent works are the novella, *A Hint of Strangeness*, and the short story, “Getting Somewhere,” included in the anthology *It Seems to Me That I Am America*. Her new novel—her fourteenth, and first of a series—is *Takes One to Know One*. It will be published in October.

She lives with her husband, a criminal defense lawyer, in Port Washington.

50 YEARS OF GREAT BOOKS & GREAT AUTHORS



Anthropologist Margaret Mead spoke in 1970

On May 16, 1969, the Plandome Country Club hosted a special event destined to become one of Port's most cherished annual traditions: the first FOL Book & Author Luncheon. The speakers were four “author-experts” on four “aspects of contemporary life” – the home, theater arts, family economics and religion. Sandwich, dessert and coffee were \$5.

The luncheon has since become a successful fundraiser for the FOL, regularly drawing an audience of more than 300. Over the decades the event has shifted venues (many will remember its long tenure at the George Washington Manor, now Hendrick's Tavern) until finding a home in recent years at the North Hills Country Club. It was named in honor of the founder and first president of the Friends, Richard D. Whittemore, in 2000.

Since 1969, more than 100 authors have been featured at the luncheon. The list includes many award winners, best-selling authors, and local luminaries such as Susan Isaacs, Dan Paisner and George Vecsey. Please see the keepsake bookmark available at each place setting for the full list. Ms. Isaacs, after being a featured author a record three times, has graciously served as program moderator in recent years.

In 1990, one of our favorite rejections came in a handwritten note from writer Annie Dillard (“I'm sorry I can't come to Port Washington. I'm just swamped.”). That note and other luncheon memorabilia can be seen on display in a special exhibit outside the library's Main Reading Room through the month of May.

BOOK & AUTHOR RESERVATION FORM

Reserve your place now! Make your check payable to FOL and mail this reservation form to FOL Assistant Treasurer:

Danielle Tane
26 Crescent Rd.,
Port Washington, NY 11050
(917) 488-9462
fol@pwpl.org

Reservations should be mailed by Wednesday, May 1 and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. MAIL EARLY! No walk-ins please.

No tickets are issued. A record of reservations is kept at the door. For more information, you may also call Lynn Moessner at the library at (516) 883-4400, Ext. 1100.

NAME _____

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Reserve _____ place(s) at \$85 each \$ _____

**Salute our 50th Anniversary Luncheon
with an additional contribution of \$50** \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

(\$40 of each ticket and any additional contributions are tax deductible.)

Vegetarian meals available.

_____ Please indicate number requested.

Please indicate the name(s) of your guest(s) and seating requests. We try our best to honor your requests.

At the luncheon we will be selling our featured books (available for signing) and raffle tickets. The GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE will be a \$1,000 Americana Manhasset Shopping Spree!