



Stauffer & Co. - The Viennese Guitar of the 19th Century

Reviews and reactions

“This book is a remarkable journey in time, emphasizing those few decades of the 19th century in the city of Vienna which literally laid the foundations for many of the ways contemporary guitar builders, classical and steel string alike, approach guitar making.

[...] Don't expect to find the latest blue- print to build your perfect copy of a Stauffer Legnani model. But do expect to gain a clear understanding of why we think and build the way we do, and how the Viennese school of guitar making evolved an ultra rich tradition that has influenced us all.”

Pierre Audinet (*American Lutherie*, no.112, 2012)

„*Stauffer & Co.* ist in vielerlei Hinsicht ein Superlativ. Es hat noch nie ein größeres, schwereres und üppiger ausgestattetes Buch über einen Aspekt der Gitarrenforschung gegeben. [...] Von *Stauffer & Co.* sind gerade mal 1200 Exemplare gemacht worden, davon zweihundert signiert von allen Autoren. Und dies (...) zeigt, dass die Autoren, die in einer Person Verleger, Setzer, Gestalter usw. usw. sind, in keiner Weise ein Industrieprodukt namens Buch in den Handel gegeben haben, sondern ein Kunstwerk!“

Peter Päßgen (*Gitarre & Laute ONLINE*, 12/2012)

« Résultat d'environ quatre années de travail, *Stauffer & Co.* est un magnifique ouvrage sur la guitare viennoise au XIX^e siècle, comme son sous-titre l'indique. Très bel objet – chaque exemplaire est relié à la main –, entièrement fabriqué en Europe, *Stauffer & Co.* est le résultat de la collaboration entre Erik Hofmann, luthier, Pascal Mougin et Stefan Hackl, tous deux chercheurs universitaires. Richement illustré et très documenté, ce livre constitue une nouvelle référence sur un sujet peu défriché jusque-là.

Le souci de précision est permanent, que ce soit à travers le contenu ou à travers la forme (notamment la mise en page et la typographie – superbes –, l'échelle des reproductions photographiques des guitares cohérente au fil des pages). [...] *Stauffer & Co.* est trilingue et propose un format à l'italienne sur 320 pages. Son prix, 195 Euro, s'il peut paraître élevé de prime abord, est tout a fait justifié étant donné la qualité exceptionnelle de l'ouvrage. »

(*Guitare Classique*, n°57, 2012)

“I’ve been meaning to write about this for some time, but it took awhile to finish the new *Stauffer & Co.* book. Not so much reading it, but absorbing it. [...] Production values and the authors ‘labor of love’ aside, the information alone is priceless. Exhaustively researched, there will be many new surprises for Early Romantic Guitar [...] scholars and aficionados.

Some of the surprises turn previous convention on its ear – for example, several regarding the development of the *Schrammelgitarre*. There is much to absorb here on the subject of harp guitars (a term the authors don’t use in the book, not unsurprisingly). There are a plethora of new specimens, and countless references to historical and surviving instruments. [...] Even though I had a hint of what was coming, I was amazed (and delighted) by the ratio of ‘bass guitars’ to 6-string guitars in the book. [...] Hopefully, the excellent new ‘must own’ *Stauffer & Co.* book will further inspire the growing number of serious researchers and performers of these instruments [...].”

Gregg Miner (*harp guitars.net*, 03/2012)

“[...] Abbiamo riscontrato un’opera eccezionale, frutto di un investimento materiale e culturale senza limiti. Alla bellezza formale del libro (certe riproduzioni delle stampe e foto sembrano degli originali) si accomuna un valore intrinseco altissimo di sapere, di storia, di documentazione. Consiglio questo volume al professionista esperto, al cultore anche dilettante di chitarra e, perche no? Anche al bibliofilo appassionato di rarità da collezione.”

Giorgio Ferraris (*Il Fronimo*, 07/2012)

“We have received review copies of several beautiful books recently, and it is so gratifying to see the results of some very fine research and investigation into the history and development of our instrument. This book [*Stauffer & Co.*], however, is something truly special. I have shown it to several of my colleagues, and they are all trying to get me part with it. Not a chance.”

David Grimes (*Soundboard*, no.3, 2012)

“Prepare to be inspired and AMAZED! *Stauffer & Co.* is beautiful and incredibly informing! If you consider yourself a guitarist or simply have an interest in the instrument, this is a history worth knowing. This era is considered the Golden age of the guitar, and there is no other publication that covers this part of guitar history better than this book.

You will be amazed at the quality of the photos and content. The care that it took to collect this information has made this book invaluable to me. [...] It [...] might even make you question everything you know about the modern guitar.”

Ben Remedy (on **eBay.com**, 2019)

„Eine Bibel des Wiener Gitarrenbaus im 19. Jahrhundert: spannende Dokumentation der Erforschung bisher unbekannter Fakten über Vater und Sohn Stauffer, einfühlsame Beschreibung des sozialen, politischen und musikalischen Umfelds und eine wahrhaft luxuriöse Präsentation mit

Fotos in Kunstdruckqualität der Instrumente und neu entdeckten Dokumente.

Wer das Buch in Händen hält, wird sich über den moderaten Preis im Vergleich zu ähnlichen Produkten wundern. Gratulation an alle Autoren!“

Brigitte Zaczek (2012)

“I’ve always wished a nice book about this topic but this has far exceeded my expectations. [...] The idea of tying together the guitar making and the musical context in one book is really a happy one. I can only express my sincere congratulations to your expert text, great quality photos and to the whole layout of the book which is a piece of art in itself. I collect books which relate to guitar and I haven’t seen a better one.”

Jan Tulacek (2012)

“What a fabulous book! I hadn’t quite expected the large size and am really impressed by the high quality throughout. It really is a masterpiece!”

Robert Coldwell (2012)

Franz Schubert – 39 Songs with Guitar Accompaniment

Reviews and reactions



„[...] ein ganz wichtiger und hervorragender Beitrag zur Schubert-Liedgeschichte mit Gitarrenbegleitung. Auch drucktechnisch ist alles mit soviel Liebe und Hingabe ausgearbeitet. [...] Gemessen an der Auflage und dem Gesamtaufwand ist der Verkaufspreis verhältnismäßig günstig! Ich würde mir wünschen, dass diese Faksimileausgabe viel Verbreitung findet.“

Tilmann Hoppstock (2015)

„[...] Stefan Hackl hat die gesamten 39 Lieder [...] mit einer informativen Einleitung versehen. Im Anhang hat er Fehler kommentiert, gibt die kompletten Liedertexte wieder und lässt zwei Schubert-Zeitgenossen zu Wort kommen, was zum Teil recht amüsant zu lesen ist. Natürlich geht es dabei um die Frage: ‚Schubert mit oder ohne Gitarre?‘ Die vorliegende bibliophile Kostbarkeit belegt jedenfalls eindrucksvoll, dass man zu Schuberts Lebzeiten Schubert-Lieder durchaus auch mit Gitarre begleitete.“

Wieland Ulrichs (*Akustik-Gitarre*, 4/2016)

"This publication is a beautifully presented facsimile of 39 [...] songs present in the manuscripts of Franz von Schlechta, one of Schubert's oldest and most faithful friends. [...] The edition is as much a coffee-table art book as a sheet music collection. The glossy, thick pages mix with subtle artistic touches and careful editing to produce an immaculate presentation. [...] This is not a score to mark up and take on the road, but an essential edition for the Schubert guitar scholar."

David Isaacs (*Soundboard*, vol.43, no.2)

"My first impressions after having spent a few hours with the new Schubert edition on the stand: A solid book cover and very good binding. The pages remain open without any fumbling so you can play on the spot! But what's most important when playing prima vista is of course the printing and that simply couldn't be any better. The paper is not too glossy so there are few reflections even when a light falls on the paper. The reproduction of the manuscript pages is immaculate and befits Schlechta's penmanship. Simply nothing to criticise.

Obviously the book is not an edition meant for performance but can be used as one. In a facsimile edition occasional inconvenient page-turning is unavoidable but can be overcome by copying one or two pages or typing them into your computer. If you are used to performing using old prints and manuscripts (as I am) you will already have found a way that suits your needs. [...] What we have here is a truly remarkable achievement in music publishing, something very rarely found nowadays. [...] In my view this book is indispensable for all musicians who love Schubert (and who doesn't?). To guitarists it provides a wealth of great performance material for quite some time to come, to the Schubert scholar an interesting new aspect on reception history and everyone else will have a very beautiful book on the greatest composer of the German Lied. Congratulations to the editors of Les Éditions des Robins! [...]"

Clemens Rech (on [amazon.de](https://www.amazon.de), 2015)



The Renewed Guitar - The Instrument's Evolution seen through Period Pictures (1775-1925)

Reviews and reactions

"Here's the most beautiful object ever created in relation to the guitar. It's very expensive, as it should be."

Stanley Yates (2021)

„Ein wunderbares, absolut einmaliges Buch.“

Luise Scheit (2021)

"[...] gorgeous in its external look and fantastic in the content"

Francesco Biraghi (2021)

«What a fabulous book! It is incredibly rich in detail, colour and character, and it opens an almost unending world of the guitar and its history and its place in society. *Chapeau ! Je vous remercie pour l'énorme quantité de travail qui se montre dans ce tome et pour tout l'amour pour le projet qu'on sent en chaque page !*»

Hopkinson Smith (2023)

„Das Buch ist fantastisch gelungen. Ganz große Klasse und bestimmt das beste was es auf diesem Gebiet gibt.“

Jan de Kloe (2021)

« Quelle merveille ! Aussi une contribution unique à la compréhension de la position de la guitare dans la culture de ces époques ! »

Ari van Vliet (2021)

“[...] a stunningly beautiful book.”

Hugh Millington (2021)

„Ein wahres Meisterwerk.“

Ivo Zurbuchen (2021)

« Une bible pour les amoureux de la guitare. Une iconographie belle et pleine de surprises, des textes toujours riches, une qualité d'impression haut de gamme : un régal esthétique. À lire sans modération. »

Edouard Herreros (2021)

„[...] eine einmalige Dokumentation in Bild und Text, die sicher unübertroffen bleiben wird.“

Raymond Dittrich (2021)

„Sensationelles Buch!“

Andrea Förderreuther (2022)

“[...] Publisher Erik Hofmann and his partner-in-frets Stefan Hackl have given us another labor of love. At 7 pounds and almost a foot square and an inch and a half thick, this is a book! In its nearly 400 pages, we see what the authors consider the “renewed guitar” in its every permutation for a good century and a half (late 18th century to early 20th) in beautiful high quality, clean reproductions of artwork of every description: oil paintings, engravings, lithographs, photographs, postcards, magazine illustrations and luthiers’ labels, to name a few. From the rare treasures of individual collectors to the holdings of museums large and small, many are published here for the first time.

While each image tells part of the guitar’s story and stands alone as pure art, I enjoyed digging into the specifics. And as I’m really bad at identifying the endless European varieties of styles/localities/traditions/individual builders (especially when “hidden in this picture”), it’s really nice that the authors point out their observations and detailed identifications wherever possible. It’s a whole different level of nerdfest! [...]”

Gregg Miner (*harpguitars.net*, 01/2022)

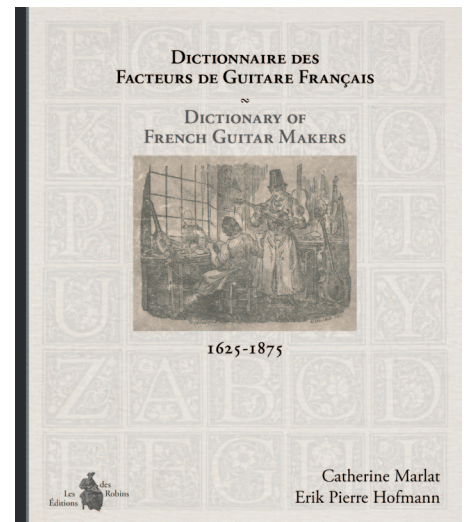
„[Translated from German:] I wholeheartedly recommend this luxurious volume to every lover of the guitar, as it offers a fresh and inspiring perspective on our beloved instrument. I also wish to express my deepest respect and gratitude to the authors, Erik Pierre Hofmann and Stefan Hackl, for their remarkable achievement. Creating such a work was truly a titanic endeavor – and publishing a book of this magnificence in a world dominated by the digital is, in itself, a remarkable accomplishment.“

« [Traduit de l’allemand :] Je recommande de tout cœur ce volume luxueux à tous les amoureux de la guitare, car il offre une perspective nouvelle et inspirante sur notre instrument bien-aimé. J’aimerais également exprimer mon plus profond respect et ma gratitude aux auteurs, Erik Pierre Hofmann et Stefan Hackl, pour leur remarquable réalisation. Créer une telle œuvre fut véritablement une entreprise titanesque – et publier un livre d’une telle magnificence dans un monde dominé par le numérique constitue, en soi, un accomplissement remarquable. »

Andreas Stevens (*EGTA-Journal*, 07/2022)

Dictionary of French Guitar Makers 1625-1875

Reviews and reactions



„Gratulation zu diesem umfassenden und essenziellen Werk! Alleine die Recherche ist schon eine Lebensaufgabe... *Chapeau!*“

« [Traduit de l'allemand :] Félicitations pour cette œuvre à la fois complète et essentielle ! Rien que la recherche représente déjà une tâche de toute une vie... Chapeau ! »

Franz Helfersdorfer (2025)

More to come soon...

This is a selection of reader reactions and reviews.

The publisher wishes to thank all those
who took the time to read and react,
whether or not their reactions are reproduced here.